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AUGUST, 1948



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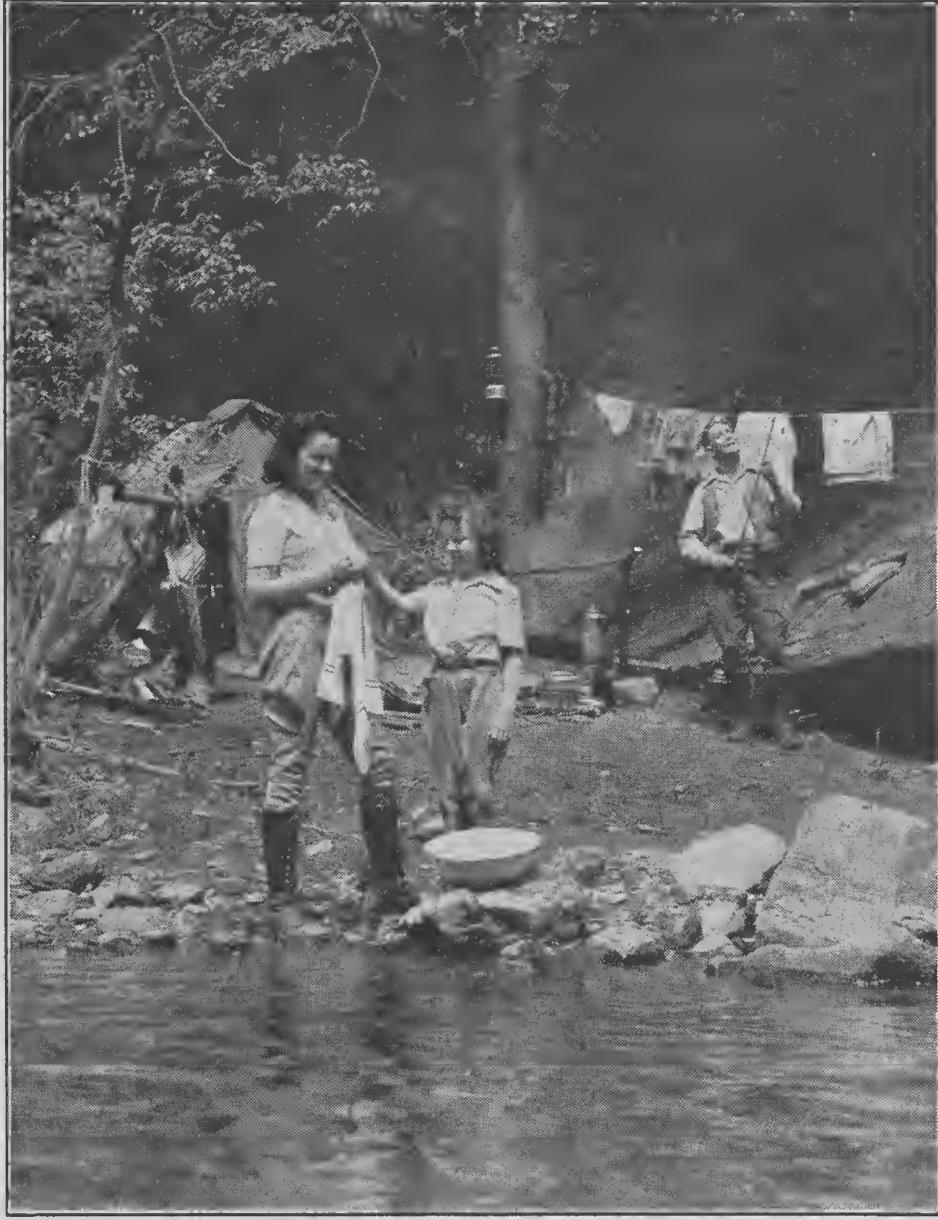
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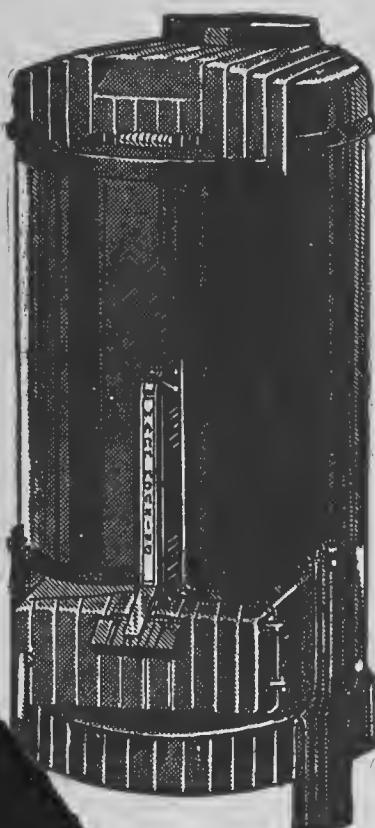
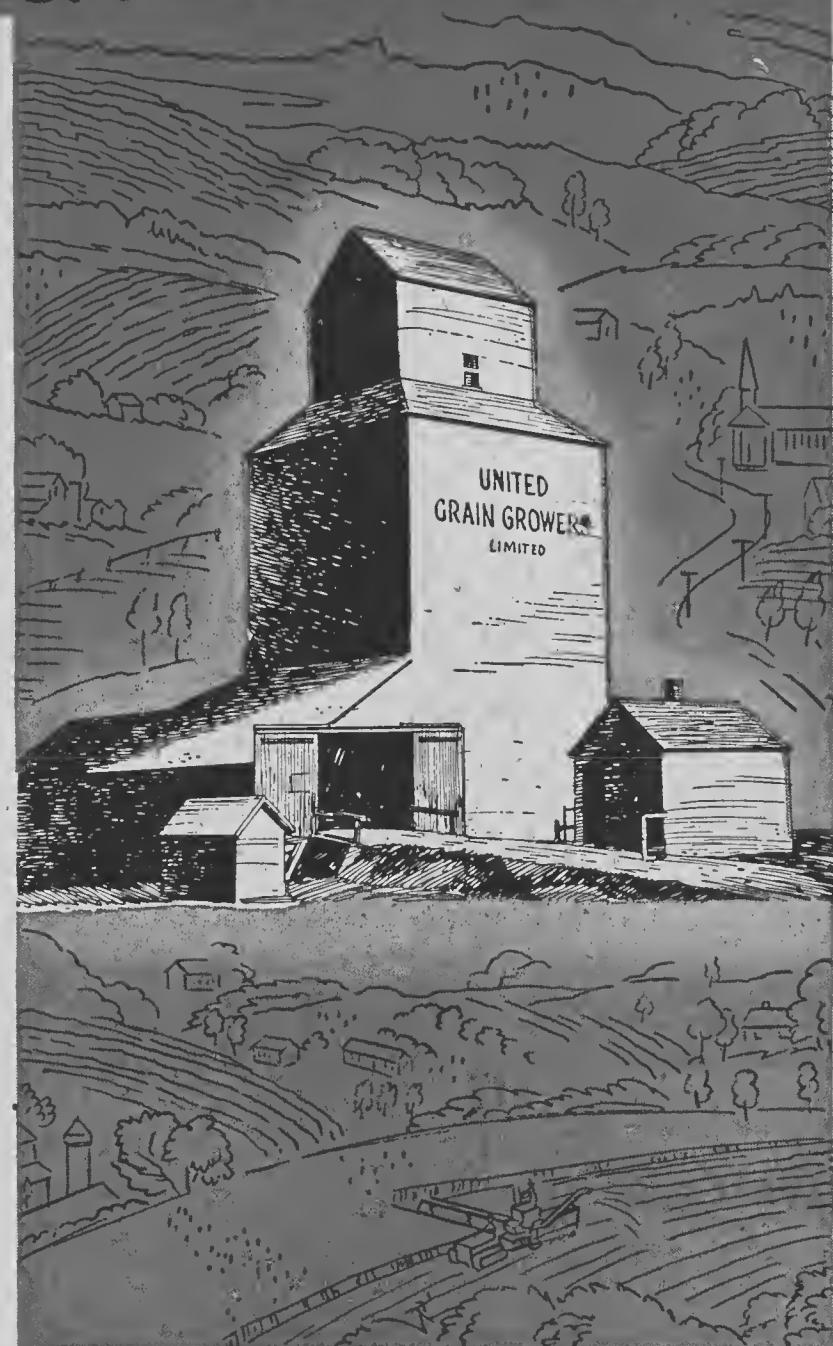
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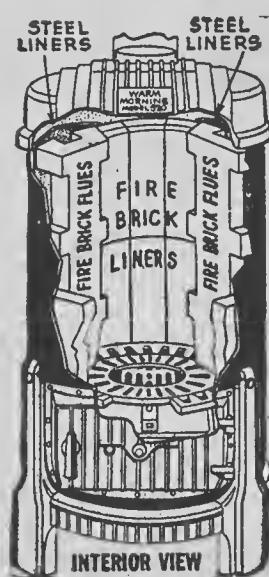
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UNDER THE PEACE TOWER

Repercussions from the Quebec election

by AUSTIN F. CROSS

THAT sweep for Duplessis in Quebec means a slap in the face for Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of External Affairs, and most-favored candidate to be the next prime minister of Canada. Most-favored up till now, that is.

Without trying to sound too pontifical about it, the history of Canada may well be changed by this overwhelming victory of the Union Nationale under the shrewd direction of Premier Maurice LeNoblet Duplessis. For the whole election was a straight battle; in this corner was Duplessis, twice champion of Quebec; in the other, the challenger, St. Laurent.

It was made pretty plain that the real opponent of Monsieur Maurice was not Adelard Godbout, provincial Liberal leader, and former premier of Quebec. The real opponent was St. Laurent. Under enormous pressure for a long while now to run for party leadership, St. Laurent was believed to be the heir apparent to the prime ministership. But as it has been represented here on Parliament Hill, if St. Laurent won in Quebec, he was as good as next prime minister. For while it would be a local victory for Godbout in Quebec, it would have meant that Quebec had endorsed St. Laurent and repudiated Duplessis. Instead, the reverse has happened.

Many think that St. Laurent has the thing sewn up anyway, and despite the fact that his prestige is at a new low in Quebec, he still stands high enough with the political pundits to get the nomination.

BUT there is no doubt about it, this defeat for St. Laurent will bolster the stock of Hon. James Gardiner. These two sexagenarians have been battling it out to see who could line up the most votes for the forthcoming Liberal convention. Gardiner has been doing it directly, while St. Laurent has been carrying out the same thing by remote control. It looks now as if St. Laurent's weakness in Quebec would be Gardiner's opportunity elsewhere.

But the thing goes farther than that. It also makes more plausible, the candidacies of the League of Youth now running for the leadership too. There are five men, all of whom will be under 50 when the Liberal convention is held. They are Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport; Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare; Hon. Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance; Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence; and Hon. Stuart S. Garson, Premier of Manitoba. These political kindergartners did not seem to have much chance against the afore-

mentioned sexagenarians. But now that St. Laurent has been badly damaged politically in the Liberal debacle, it leaves the field much more widely open. For there may be many who would not consider Gardiner as an alternative to St. Laurent. This might cause many to decide they will take a second look at the younger crowd, all of whom are still in their 40's.

LE'TS leave it at that, that the defeat of St. Laurent has thrown the Liberal convention wide open, and though the sixty-six-year-old minister can stage a comeback, and may show enough strength to sway the convention, it still spells trouble in the long run for the Liberals.

Now then let's put on those glasses that people wear when they want to see long distances. For coming hard on the heels of the Liberal convention is the Progressive Conservative convention. There were many around town here in Ottawa and all across Canada, who predicted that this would be the last Conservative convention. They prophesied that there would be no Conservative party by the time the next general election after the coming one is held. In other words, the 1949 general election would see the last of the Conservatives as a real party, and that by 1953 or 1954 they would only be a political fragment such as the Liberals of England have been ever since Lloyd George buried aforesaid Liberals a quarter century ago. But now the tune is changed. Some even go so far as to predict that if anybody disappears in 1953, it will be the Liberals.

Here is how that is reasoned out. If the Liberals pick somebody who cannot hold the party together, while the Conservatives choose a small "l" Liberal, then the conservative Liberals will merge with the Conservatives. The left wing Liberals will join the C.C.F. Exit Liberals.

I said a short time ago, the Liberals figured they were good forever, while they were already arranging to attend the funeral of the Conservatives as a party. But the P.C.'s pulled a fast one when they secured the resignation of John Bracken. For that put them in a position to get a younger man for their next leader, and as far as this column can see, a man who at least can get some votes. Hon. George Drew, Premier of Ontario, and John Diefenbaker, M.P. for Lake Centre, are likely to fight it out between them. Both are colorful, both are vote getters, both make great speeches, both are in

(Turn to page 56)

How TEXACO MARFAK adds Longer Life to Bearings that operate in dirt...



This farmer pumps Marfak Lubricant into bearing until it forms a "collar" around the open edges, sealing out sand and dirt. The Texaco Marfak "seal" lasts longer, gives real protection to bearings that operate in dirt and dust.



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Why can't we get more British goods?



A British glass blower at work. What will it be? Perhaps a lamp globe.

PEOPLE who know something of Canada's trade balances and her own U.S. dollar difficulties often ask why Canada cannot buy more from Britain and less from the United States, and many are wondering what the chances are for a heavier flow of British goods and services to Canada in the near or more distant future.

H. Oldham, British Trade Commissioner, formerly in Winnipeg, now in Vancouver, answers a question frequently asked by Canadians who appreciate the need for two-way trade with our best customer

resulted in producing factors which tore down the fabric of her own normal industrial economy but built up, at the same time and to a remarkable degree those of countries like Canada, Australia and other Commonwealth nations. It is a truism to say that during the war Britain suicided on her exports, but export trade is the lifeblood of Britain, and the enormous implication in the bare statement that

in order to help win the war Britain jettisoned her export trade has, it is feared, through repetition, come to mean little to the outside world, but it is obviously and demonstrably true that, if main arteries

are opened in any kind of body and the lifeblood is allowed to flow without staunching the wounds, death must inevitably result.

IT is as well therefore to realize, and to have no illusions on the matter, that although the critical years of military struggle are over, CRISIS still exists in the United Kingdom for its 50 million inhabitants. The reason is very simple. Although the actual fighting has been over for three years it means that this is still the aftermath of war, during which half her merchant fleet was sunk, her cities and her industries heavily bombed and damaged, her foreign investments largely disposed of, her shipping and other services most seriously curtailed, and normal peace-time industrial research, renovation and restoration were entirely suspended, to say nothing of the meagre and monotonous rations which her citizens are still enduring three years after hostilities have ceased.

It is well to bear in mind always that in fighting the common cause during the six anxious years of war by far the greatest dislocations in trade, and the only devastation, were suffered by European

and Asiatic countries where acute shortages of food and of goods have resulted. This necessitates their queueing up at those national counters where there are substantial surpluses for sale, namely in the United States, and in other dollar countries. Far from the scenes of actual conflict, they have been enabled to expand their productive capacity, high already before the war, and to enlarge their wartime economy and their peace-time potential to an amazing degree of volume and efficiency.

The facts of the situation are, of course, well understood by the governments and administrations in both Canada and the United States, which have given, and are still giving, to Britain and to Europe generally, splendid physical offerings as well as their generous sympathy and sincere understanding and appreciation of the position. But so often one finds in western Canada a real but understandable difficulty in realizing why Britain, where personal poverty has now practically disappeared and full employment has been achieved, cannot do more to send more goods and services to Canada to help balance the great and increasing gaps between the imports and exports of the two countries.

IT is usually forgotten that Britain personal poverty has been replaced by national prosperity, and that all the changes in its foreign relations, in its domestic policies, in the British Government, are necessarily obsessed by the bogey of economic wants. This is particularly true in British Columbia where the miners are being paid a value rate of pay which is more than double that of the United States, and from which the country is of



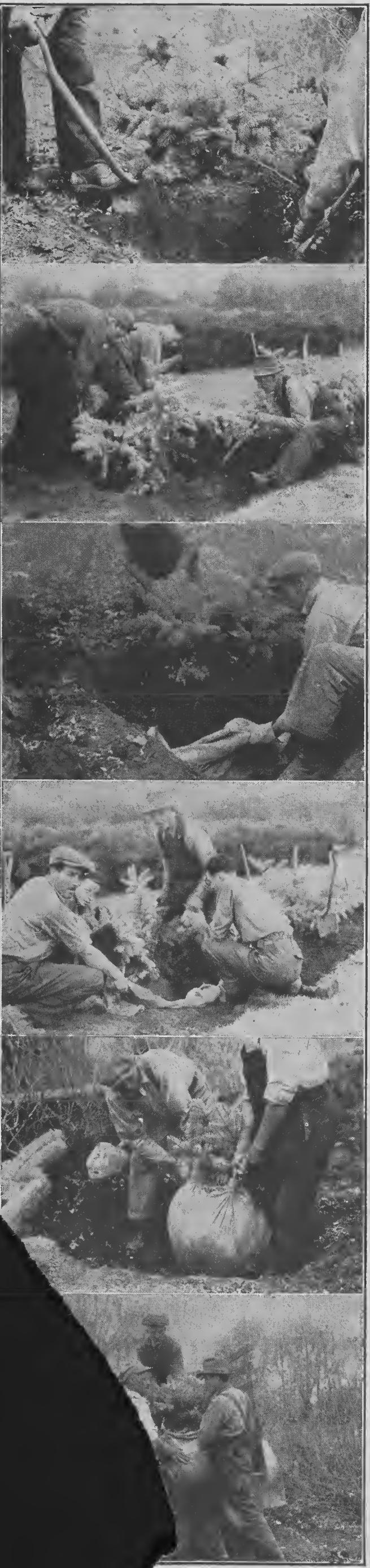
A worker in the British clock industry which is at present undergoing a great revival, following the introduction of mass production technique.

After spending the last decade in western Canada, seven years in Winnipeg and three in Vancouver, this writer wishes to go right out on a limb and to pronounce that it is his personal view that United Kingdom manufacturers, after the lush days at the beginning of the century, retired too quickly from the Canadian market in the face of Canada's own rapid industrialization and of intensified North American competition generally. There is still time, perhaps not too much time, however, for Britain to come right back and do much, particularly in western Canada, to redress the unfortunately huge adverse balance of trade from which she now suffers in her economic relations with the Senior Dominion.

LET it be admitted then that, particularly during the inter-war period, U.K. manufacturers allowed themselves to develop a complex and to pull out too quickly from this tremendous and rapidly growing country of Canada, with its different currency and ways of life paralleling those of its great southern neighbor, and to concentrate, perhaps understandably, on other, mainly sterling markets, where the difficulties were not so acute nor the barriers so high and forbidding.

Admitting all that, however, and regretfully conceding that many U.K. manufacturers should have made greater efforts prior to 1939 to link up and to fit in with Canada's growing industrialization (in spite of the juxtaposition of the U.S.A.) let us briefly study the position of Britain at the present time, for it is feared that much misinformation, and often ignorance, abounds in this western country as to what is happening over there, which leads to the question "Why can't we get more British goods?"

One encounters in western Canada many misconceptions as to the present state of Britain's economy, and very often a complete failure to understand the part which Britain played in World War II, or to appreciate the effect of the policies she was forced to adopt. So often have we heard how Britain stood alone in 1940 and 1941 that the saying of it nowadays makes little impression, and the statement has become trite and meaningless. Too rarely is it realized that during the tremendous years between 1939 and 1945 the direct impact of war on Britain



PRAIRIE gardeners often are asked — When should the stock be planted? The *when* is fully as important as the *how*, in many instances. Springtime is ever too short and too fleeting to accomplish all the chores desired. The period from mid-April, when the ground dries sufficiently to dig deeply, until the second week in May, when plant dormancy is broken, is the accepted planting season for trees, shrubs and vines. These few days are overly busy. If spells of heavy rains occur, planting time is further curtailed. In consequence gardeners seek a second season for their transplanting.

Autumn planting is common practice in mild, moist climates. The prairie realm is neither moist nor mild. The winter temperatures are low, the air relatively dry and frequently windy. In some seasons, snowfall, which is Nature's excellent comfortable blanket, is rather scanty and delayed in coming. Such conditions prohibit the successful transplanting of tender subjects in autumn. However, there are a considerable number of plants

August most older specimens will build a terminal bud on the new shoots. This marks cessation of length growth for the season. If conditions are overly encouraging, due to rich soil and heavy rainfall, terminal growth may continue on young plants late into September. Such a state is undesirable as it hazards tip-killing by early frosts. The gardener endeavors to prevent late growth by stopping his cultivation of soil in early July, and holding off irrigation and other growth-inducing practices.

NORMALLY the tulip is content to go to sleep by mid-summer. The leaves brown and die down in late June or July. Bloodroot, ixiolirium and trillium wither and die down completely in summer. Oriental poppies have a rest period in August. Spruce trees have completed their growth by early August. Raspberries are in a quiet state by early September. A large proportion of plants are in a lull of growth processes in late August and early September. The tops of the plants

Fall Planting FOR YOUR GARDEN

by W. R. LESLIE

Even on the prairies you can fall plant many kinds and save time in the busy spring season

that move best in late summer. A general rule is to plant spring-blooming subjects in autumn and late-blooming plants in the spring. The rule must be modified somewhat here, owing to the probable trying conditions encountered from prolonged deep frosts of winter.

At the outset it seems well to give a little consideration to plant nature so that the major operation of moving plants be performed with understanding.

There is a rhythm to plant growth. This varies considerably with different groups and species. Moreover, growth in the different parts of the plant takes place at unequal rates of speed. All plants have periods of dormancy and periods of rapid growth. Transplanting is most favorable when the plant is dormant. In this respect there is suggestion of hospital procedure. Winter acts as an anaesthetic. The major operation is done before the patient is awakened into consciousness by warm spring sun and rains. Thus, early spring is the logical time, the plants being still relaxed in slumber.

The strengthening sun's rays in April thaw the ground, thus freeing moisture. Plant tissue moistens as the roots absorb water. Sap begins to circulate. This dissolves stored plant food. Dormant buds, being stimulated by warm temperatures and aroused by nourishment, fatten, expand their scales, and put forth young leaves, while some also produce flowers. Plant processes become general.

Most woody plants experience luxuriant growth of new shoots and form next season's flower buds in June. This flush of growth, which occurs at the expense of stored materials manufactured during the previous season tapers off in July. By

Steps in lifting an evergreen for transplanting as described by Mr. Leslie. The main requirements are minimum damage to roots, and preservation undisturbed of the largest practical ball of earth until the tree is planted in its new location.

appear satisfied with their season's effort. However, a study of the parts of the plants underground reveals that a new mesh of roots and rootlets are put forth at this season. This suggests that the time is auspicious to do transplanting and thus have the new roots grow during autumn to anchor the plant and re-establish it in its new permanent setting. Root activity continues until lowering temperatures cool the soil to the degree where further development is halted. The plant then becomes dormant. It is imperative that the soil be moist in early autumn, for free root growth.

A nursery tree may be moved without killing the patient at any time of the year. If done in June or July, when carrying its leaves, the plant requires to be moved with a ball of earth on its roots. It will demand frequent generous waterings, and the leaves should be syringed every evening. Also it may be necessary to erect a burlap screen to afford shelter and partial shade.

Transplanting is a distinctive major operation. Most deciduous trees have roots extending out with a radius about equal to twice the height of the tree—or a diameter of root-spread amounting to four times the height of the top. A spruce has normally one-half that spread. Hence, no matter how skillfully transplanting is done, the loss of roots in digging is enormous. The patient must be considerably nursed if it is even to survive, let alone thrive.

SOME plants are best planted only in the spring. Experience at the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba, includes in that category the following: Birches, Siberian and Chinese elms, apricots, walnuts, grapes, chrysanthemums, Michaelmas daisy, sneezeweed, monkshood, false dragonhead, perennial sunflower and gayfeather.

In contrast, a number of plants are safely planted only in late summer and early autumn. Among these are scillas, tulips, lilies, peonies, lily-of-the-valley, Desert candle, Virginia bluebells and Oriental poppy.

(Turn to page 32)



The Matador



Co-op Farm

One end of the horseshoe in which the dwellings on the Matador Co-operative Farm have been arranged.

A group of veterans have established a miniature democracy that works

by P. M. ABEL

meaning of personal sacrifice for a common cause, and the strength of groups of men who are willing to practise it. And they knew something of the new form of enterprise on which they were invited to embark.

THE Matador project was launched at a meeting held in Regina one April morning in 1946. The provincial government gathered together 25 young veterans who had corresponded with the department of rehabilitation on the subject of co-operative farming. The conference immediately got down to cases. These young men call a spade by its catalog name. They informed me that the only difference educated men make to a discussion is to lengthen it.

At Regina they hammered out a plan for execution forthwith. It differed in some respects from the plan advocated by the department. The government representatives advised the appointment of a technical man as farm manager. The veterans were all men who had had farm experience in the West. They insisted on a democratic form of control in which they would make their own mistakes. Twenty of the 25 in attendance at Regina agreed to tackle it.

Following the conference, the vets went straight to their objective. From May to August they worked as farm laborers on the land that was to become

their home. They were paid a monthly wage by the department under an agreement by which the money was to be refunded by the Co-op when formed. It was a time for testing. In those months it would be discovered which men, if any, could not take it. It would detect personalities which would be uncongenial in the intimate community life of a co-operative farm. It would provide the faint hearted co-operators a chance to withdraw.

A little time was also required to iron out a legal tangle. The Federal Veterans' Land Act, now happily amended, would not then allow returned men to pool their grants in a co-operative enterprise. This was overcome by the provincial government which advanced sums equivalent to the federal grant, to be repaid when Ottawa altered its regulations. By August, 1946, all the spade work was completed and incorporation became a fact. Of the 20 who had agreed to join at Regina, 17 put their signatures and their cash on the line.

From the beginning these men have run their own show. Annually one of them is elected leader, and six others head as many departments; field foreman, mechanic, carpenter, livestock and poultry, gardening and irrigation, education and recreation. A meeting is held every Thursday evening, at which officials make reports, or anything pertaining to the life and work of the farm may be discussed.

The Matador ranch, selected by the provincial administration for the experiment, covers a total of 131,000 acres, and lies just across the South Saskatchewan River north from Swift Current. Much of it is submarginal, but a recent soil survey discloses that it has one fairly level stretch of 10,000 acres rated as Sceptre heavy clay, than which there are few soils better in the province. The co-operators were allotted the good land at the rate of 480 acres per veteran. They hold it on a 33-year lease, with option to buy at any time, or to renew the lease at its expiry. Terms of purchase are 10 per cent down and the balance spread over 15 years. Price per acre is to be determined by its crop record.

THE capital for the enterprise was contributed by the soldier operators themselves who receive three per cent interest on their investment. The Co-op pays wages to its members at the rate of five dollars a day during the crop months. From November to April the single men are free to work elsewhere. Last winter two of them operated Co-op farm trucks on contract hauling fish in the North. Married men, and such single men as remain on the farm in the winter, are paid at a lower rate for days worked.

(Turn to page 28)

A section of the building from St. Aldwyn airport shown crossing the Saskatchewan Landing fe



The baseball team: Dietrick (with catcher's mitt), Bishop, Zazalenchuk, Walker, A. Tone, Barlow, Davis, McLellan, E. Tone.





Illustrated
by
CLARENCE
TILLELIUS

PART II

THREE'S something else you'd better listen to first," Neilson said. "Congressman Hopper asked a few moments ago if there was anyone here who could verify Miss Burt's statement . . . that some person came into Mr. Ogden's cabin while she was hiding in the bathroom. Someone did come in. I know, because I was that person!"

The murmur of astonishment that rose from the little group in the Vesta's cabin lasted for a long moment. Congressman Hopper was the first to recover.

"But" . . . he gasped . . . "that's impossible! I saw you myself come in from the forward deck!"

"I know. But I'd been down before. You see, around eight bells I happened to notice the light from Mr. Ogden's stateroom window reflected in the water off our starboard bow. It seemed to me strange that he should be staying up so late. And I wasn't quite satisfied about the queer report I'd heard some moments before. So I shut off my engines, ran down to see if anything was wrong. That was at three minutes past four. I found Mr. Ogden dead."

"And kept quiet?" Raskin snorted. "You went in there, found him murdered, and didn't say anything? Humph!"

"I considered it my duty to take a look around. While I was doing it, before I had a chance to enter the bathroom, the Vesta ran on the reef. I went up to the pilot house hoping to get off it in time. When I got back, this reef was coming into the hall."

Congressman Hopper stroked his chin. "Unfortunately, however, your statement, helping Miss Burt's case, makes me wonder now why she did not take the satchel. Your unexpected

"and two making four!"
She plugged Ogden a few times . . . you heard the shot taken the documents and blocked her!"
his head.

"Put that money on the table!" Neilson snapped, "and be quick about it unless you want to get hurt."

Eight Bells

by FREDERIC ARNOLD KUMMER

"Don't be in a hurry, Mr. Raskin," he smiled. "I haven't finished yet. When I reached Mr. Ogden's stateroom on my first visit, the door was closed. I opened it very softly, thinking if he was asleep I wouldn't waken him. As I came through the door I saw a man's face staring in at the window from the deck outside. Not yours, Congressman . . . I should have recognized your white hair at once."

He turned swiftly on Raskin and Strawn.

"Which of you two was it?" he growled. "It must have been one or the other!"

Before either could answer, a drawling hail came over the Vesta's side.

"Hey, there, aboard the cruiser! Want any help?"

Neilson, who, like the others, had failed to hear the "putt-putt" of the approaching motorboat, went out to the after deck. A small skiff lay under the Vesta's stern with two men in it, evidently bent on a Sunday morning's fishing.

"Thought you might like us to pull you off the mud," one of them said . . . an elderly, red-faced

The story of each passenger unfolds as the probing of the mystery shooting aboard the Vesta comes to its close in this second and final instalment

man with a battered straw hat on his head. "There's a lot of tricky bars around here," he added, smiling.

"Sure are," Neilson smiled back, "but I guess we'll get clear with the tide."

"Won't be high water until around eleven o'clock," the elderly man went on. His twinkling eyes suggested that a ten-dollar salvage operation would be very welcome.

Neilson considered; his expression impassive. Once the house boat was under way he would be a prisoner in her pilot house . . . something which did not fit in at all with his plans.

"We'll take our chances," he said decisively. "Much obliged, just the same." The motorboat moved noisily off. As he turned back toward the cabin he found Evelyn Burt at his elbow.

"I came out," she said, a nervous tremor in her voice, "to get some fresh air. It . . . it's close, inside."

"Yes." Neilson's eyes swept her drooping figure. "I should think you'd need it."

The girl smiled at him.

"Thanks a lot for helping me," she went on.

"That's all right," Neilson's expression lost some of its habitual grimness.

"You don't believe I killed Mr. Ogden, do you?"

"No." The young man laughed . . . a swift, ironic laugh, filled with double meaning. "I'm quite sure you didn't."

"But . . . how can you be sure? Unless"—she stood staring at him—"unless you know who did."

"Perhaps," he said, "I know you."

HIS expression was so frank, so suddenly boyish, that he seemed for the moment another person; then the harsh lines reformed about his mouth, his eyes. In that moment Evelyn realized how attractive he might be, under different circumstances.

"You've been . . . sweet!" she said. "Do you want me to go in, now?"

"Yes." He glanced warily through the open door of the cabin. "I think you'd better. And keep an eye on that brief-case, will you? I'll be back in a moment."

The Vesta's decks, washed by the rainstorm of the night before, were spotless. (Turn to page 40)

WHEN Tom Simmons first settled on the old Higgin's place he used to drop over in the evening to talk to Pa about his purebred shorthorns, or make bets with me on which hockey team would win Saturday night.

Julie would be out in the kitchen humming as she dried the supper dishes and cleaned the eggs. When she was through she'd get her embroidery and sit awhile in the front room with us. That was a funny thing for Julie to do, because usually when her work was finished she streaked for the barn and that bay thoroughbred of hers. When she came back her hair would be tangled with wind tearing through it and her eyes as alive as first of July fireworks.

Julie used to be an awful pest before I got so big she couldn't sit on me any more. She can still shinny up a poplar after crow's eggs if Ma isn't looking. Not a bad kid, Julie, but kinda dumb! She wouldn't be any stupider than most females except she's so all-fired horse crazy. She'd rather talk horses than eat, and Tom and me get fed up sometimes.

We're tractor men ourselves, and any time I can sneak away after school I hit for Tom's place and go around the field with him on his little old John Deere. Once he let me harrow a round all by myself.

Pretty soon Tom started slicking his hair down with goo when he came over, and shaving even in the middle of the week. Julie made herself a couple of frilly housedresses and started embroidering that cushion.

Well, this evening Tom and me were talking about the ignition system of the Model AR and Julie was shooting daggers at me from the corners of her eyes. Ma was out in the kitchen finishing up, and she stuck her head through the doorway.

"Jack," she hollered, "come and get me a pail of water."

I knew she would collar me out behind the woodshed and tell me to make myself scarce in the front room, and Ma isn't the sort a fellow argues with. So I said, "Okay, Ma."

I didn't go just then though, because Shep started raising a rumpus down by the gate and Ma went over to the window to see what was coming. Julie was already there, her mouth open a little, and her eyes round and dark with fireworks in them again.

"Would you look at that horse!" she gasped. "Would you just look at that horse!"

She didn't seem to notice the dusty stranger with a battered Stetson pushed back on his brow. He wore chaps and spurs and heavy leather wrist bands. When he got off his horse and came to the door I noticed he was a little bow-legged.

"Heard you was lookin' for a man for spring work," he said. "I figured on making it back to Meadow Lake before seedin' but the Lady here," he nodded towards the horse, "is gettin' kinda footsore, so if we kin agree on wages and such," he flashed a smile at Dad, "I'm your man."

"Well," Dad said, "put your horse in and stop the night. We'll talk it over in the morning."

I WENT out to show him where to water and find horsefeed. I couldn't see why Julie raved about the horse so much, she looked pretty big to me, though she did have a fine head and nice legs that set well under her.

When we came back Julie was warming up the potatoes and meat left from supper and setting a place at the oilcloth-covered table.

He washed up at the kitchen sink, as unconcerned as if he didn't know we were all sizing him up. He was about Tom's age, only bigger. I sure could use a set of muscles like his.

His name was Larry Denning, he told us, between huge mouthfuls. He had aimed to work

Horse Crazy



Larry used to ride with Julie. I figured if she wanted to make a sap of herself, that was her funeral.

[Bob Reck]

by BERTHA CAMPBELL KURJATA

Illustrated by ROBERT RECK

Julie
wasn't stupid
but she was
under a
handicap

on his brother's farm this spring, but now the Lady had gone lame and he didn't want to go any farther.

Julie stopped with the dishcloth in her hand to listen. You could see it went over big with her that he was being so considerate of his horse. She was taking in his gentle voice and the big friendly smile that seemed to make everything he said important.

"Best little saddle horse that ever hit Saskatchewan, the Lady," he said cheerfully, "but there's gonna be a better one one of these days. The Lady here is in foal to Golden Prince."

"Golden Prince!" broke in Julie. "You mean that wonderful Palomino?"

Tom got up and said he guessed he'd better be going, and Julie never even heard him. I walked down the ravine with him. The frogs in the slough were chirping their hearts out and I soaked in the springtime. Tom was awfully quiet and his mouth was in a straight line.

"Say, Tom," I asked him, "what do you think of that guy?"

"Awful mouthy," said Tom. "Awful darn mouthy."

Larry stayed on through the spring work with the livestock and on the land. He was a good all round hand and Dad was glad to have him. He joked with the women and smiled at them with those melted brown eyes. Pretty soon Ma was

sitting up nights to darn his socks and Julie was washing out the red silk bandana that he wore around his neck and taking longer to iron it than she did her party dress.

THE LADY was in no condition to be ridden so Larry broke in a lively four-year-old of Dad's and used him to ride to town on Saturday nights and do the odd jobs that call for a saddle horse. Pa remarked that a guy that had a way like that with women and horses was usually pretty unsteady. But with help so hard to find he was glad to take what he could get.

Well, this Wednesday night Tom came over with his Sunday pants on and a fresh crease in them that you could cut your finger on. His mouth looked tired, because he'd been working day and night to get his summerfallow done. There wasn't a farmer in the country with a better job of than Tom turned out.

"If the crops are good this fall, reckon to ask Julie to move over to my place once."

You'd think a girl would appreciate that much thought for her future. No sir! Larry sprawled across the floor and talked horse talk and she sat with her mouth open and listened.

"Prettiest durn horse you ever seen, Gold," he'd say.

Tom would blow smoke rings and Julie's eyes would be half closed.

(Turn to page 12)

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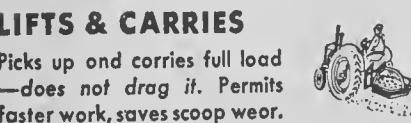
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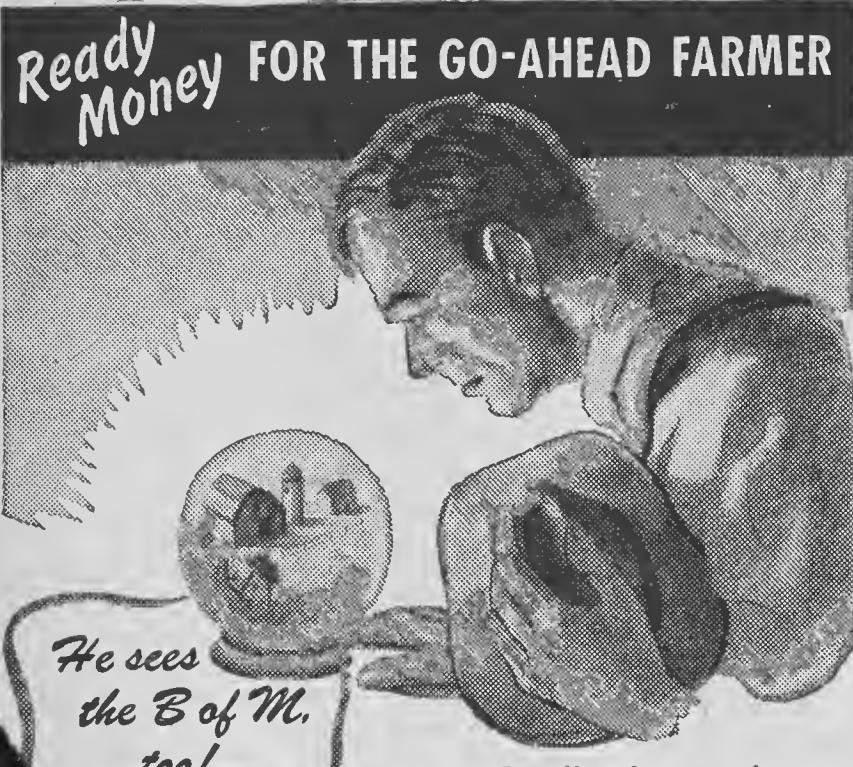
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B.C.'s "Time Of Troubles"

And the greatest of these is freight rates

by CHAS. L. SHAW

BUSINESS in British Columbia has been beset by more troubles this year than for a long, long time. As soon as one problem seems to be settled and out of the way along comes another, with its complications and anxieties. And they all add up to higher costs.

All business and industry is affected. The big basic operations such as lumbering, mining, fishing, and shipping have been hit, but so have the secondary industries and, of course, the man on the land—the producer on the farm and the ranch—has found no escape from the ascending spiral of inflation and mounting expenditures.

Indeed, the farmer as a class has suffered more than most of his contemporaries in British Columbia this year, because he was most directly affected by the unfavorable variations of the weather which saw their most spectacular manifestation in the floods of the Fraser and the Columbia rivers.

But the floods and their cost may actually prove to be quite insignificant in contrast to the results, for instance, from the higher freight rates which the railroads will probably charge because of the recent increases in their employees' wages.

If the increase in rates is allowed, over and above the higher schedule previously authorized, and British Columbia's handicap through the mountain differential is continued, the whole province will have renewed cause for lament.

British Columbia's fight against the so-called mountain rate is an old story now. The higher rate was inaugurated by the railroads originally because of the greater cost of rolling freight over the comparatively steep grades of the Rocky Mountains. But this greater cost is regarded now as largely theoretical, and it has been the claim of British Columbians that the mountain differential is today merely an unfair discrimination against the coast province.

When the 21 per cent boost in all rail rates was allowed earlier this year, the cost of bringing goods through the mountains was increased in a greater measure in British

Columbia than elsewhere in Canada. If a further 15 per cent increase is granted, as seems to be indicated as a result of the 17 cents an hour increase in pay to railroad workers, the margin as between British Columbia transportation costs and those of the rest of Canada will be further broadened.

ALL this could mean, of course, that fruit from the Okanagan and other producing sections of British Columbia, lumber, fish and other raw materials from the west coast could no longer compete on favorable terms with shipments from other parts of Canada and other countries in the prairie and eastern markets.

In addition, the increase would raise the price of almost everything used and consumed in British Columbia.

Nor is that all. As this is written the loggers—key men in British Columbia's biggest industry—are threatening to strike for higher wages, and miners are also talking strike, with the possibility that at least two or three of the province's gold mines will be forced to shut down. One mine has already closed.

Taken altogether, it isn't an edifying story. The only consolation is that British Columbia always seems to work its way out of economic difficulties in one way or another. Every year brings its crop of seemingly insurmountable difficulties, but they all are overcome eventually in a manner that leaves the incurably optimistic British Columbians with a sense of being pretty fortunate, after all.

THE weather continues to play havoc with some of British Columbia's crops. The Okanagan Valley's cherry harvest is reported to be down 50 to 60 per cent as a result of the worst splitting ever experienced. This was induced by general rains throughout the interior in early July.

Along the Fraser Valley the job of reclamation and rehabilitation is proceeding, but it will be months before conditions are back to normal in the



The Barnet by-pass on The Great North Road, from London to Edinburgh.
 The verges are being plowed to grow a crop of wheat

flood-ravaged sections, notably around Matsqui and Chilliwack.

The British Columbia legislature held a brief, busy session to put through emergency legislation required by the flood situation, and the government was authorized to borrow \$5,000,000 for defraying the cost of dyke construction, relief and rehabilitation. In addition, the cabinet was given what amounts to a blank cheque to meet other special costs arising from the flood emergency. The Dominion government has agreed to pay 75 per cent of the over-all expenditures thus required.

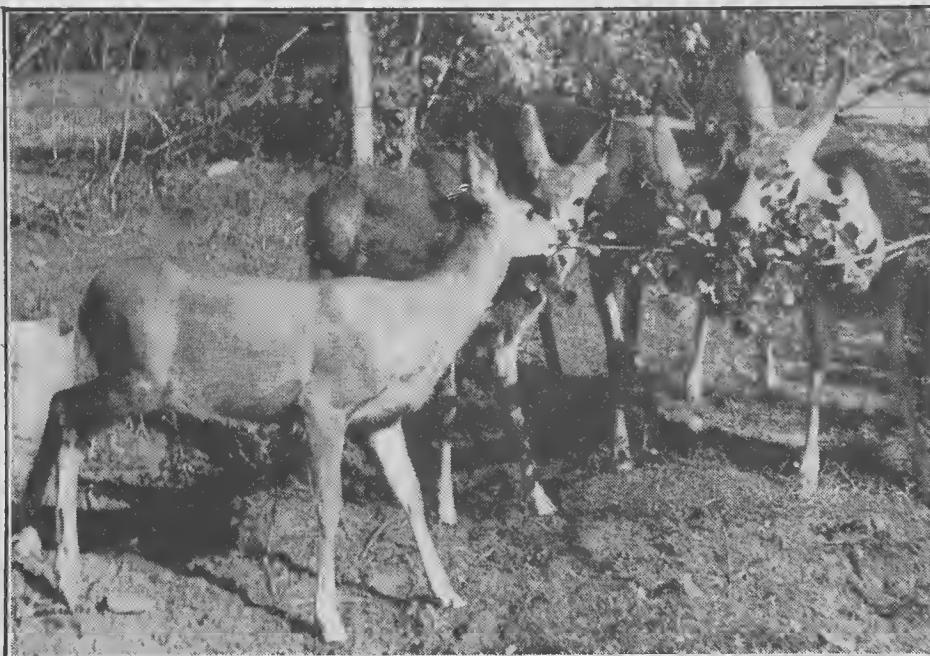
This, of course, does not take into account the long-term program for permanent development of the Fraser basin with a view to minimizing the danger of recurrent floods and harnessing the river for power and other uses. A representative committee of experts has been appointed to make a survey of requirements, but its findings will not be known for some time, and the actual work involved will, of course, be carried over a good many years.

It is estimated that the Fraser Valley flood will cost the federal and provincial governments some \$17,000,000.

WHALING has been added to British Columbia's industries this year. Or rather, it has been revived, because for more than 40 years the whale boats made their annual foray into the North Pacific from Victoria in their quest for the mighty mammal. Then the war came, and men became scarce for that sort of work. The little ships that engaged in the romantic calling became obsolescent and were finally auctioned off for junk.

For a while it looked as though whaling was to go the way of totem-carving and become a lost art, so far as this province was concerned. However a progressive group of Vancouver fisheries operators formed a new corporation this spring, bought three vessels which they converted for the purpose and fitted with harpoon guns, recruited crews from the ranks of old-time whaling men and green youths, acquired a site for a shore station at the north end of Vancouver Island, and started hunting.

The venture has been successful, and more than 100 whales have been brought in so far, with the season barely half over. Of course, there is no likelihood that the business will reach the proportions of the great Antarctic whale operation engaged in by ships



Deer at the Mental Hospital, North Battleford, Sask.

Ottawa has so far agreed to put up \$9,500,000 of which \$5,000,000 is a straight grant toward relief and rehabilitation of some 3,000 families most directly affected by the rampaging river and \$4,500,000 as a 75 per cent contribution toward dyke reconstruction.

This is for the Fraser river alone. In addition, much work and expenditure remains to be done and appropriated for other affected districts such as the Okanagan, the Kootenay, Trail and Kimberley.

The No. 1 objective is to get the people back on their lands and enable them to salvage as much as possible of their crops this year and to prepare for continuing production from their acreage. Livestock was not interfered with to a great extent, most of the cattle being moved to higher ground during the flood stage; but the full extent of the flood's influence on stock will not be known until the condition of the pasture lands is known. It is hoped that the early reports to the effect that wide areas were virtually ruined by salt water and silt will be disproved.

of several nations and which has a limit this year of 16,000 whales. There simply aren't that many whales off the British Columbia and Alaska coast. But there are evidently whales in sufficient numbers to keep a modest fleet active, and with the average whale worth two or three thousand dollars, there is money in it.

The Okanagan was quite indignant over the reports from the east that apple tasters ranked the prize B.C. variety, the McIntosh, third on the flavor list in some sort of test, at Guelph, Ont.

This looked like an open affront at the much-admired McIntosh, and the Okanagan growers are convinced that something must have been wrong with the test. After all, they say, the B.C. apples had been in storage for three months and had been shipped 2,500 miles, yet were asked to compete with fruit fresh off the trees. It just didn't seem fair.

However, the test may not be entirely in the eating. The Okanagan industry doesn't have much to worry about so long as it can sell 600,000 boxes in Quebec and 175,000 boxes in Ontario, as it did last season.

Photo courtesy C.N.E.

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Prairie Farm Indebtedness

IN 1936, prairie farms carried debts in the form of mortgages, agreements of sale, and liens to the amount of \$368 million. A total of 120,318 farms were involved in agreements for sale and mortgages, while 43,331 supported liens. More than half of this indebtedness was carried in Saskatchewan for a total of slightly more than \$200 million.

Figures recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that by 1946, or 10 years later, prairie farm indebtedness had been reduced to \$164 million, for which 67,100 reported mortgages or agreements of sale and an additional 4,751 farms carried liens. In 1946, the Saskatchewan total accounted for slightly less than half of the prairie total. By provinces, in round figures, Manitoba farms bore \$29 million of debt in 1946, Saskatchewan \$79 million, and Alberta \$57 million.

The Bureau points out that until the 1946 census, the farm debt reported was on land and buildings operated by the owner, while in 1946 it was the debt reported on all land and buildings owned by farm operators, including land owned by these operators and rented to someone else. The effect of this change was to underestimate the total debt reduction between 1946 and earlier census years.

Canadian Products Through ERP

CANADA will furnish a wide variety of products to European countries benefitting from the European Recovery Program, more popularly known as the Marshall Plan. The Canadian Government has supplied a list of available products which total more than \$1.6 billion for the 12 months ending June 30, 1949. More than \$250 million worth of Canadian goods have already been contracted for, including wheat and flour, beef, bacon, cheese, shell eggs, sugar, egg powder, frozen eggs, fertilizers and lumber, as well as some minerals such as aluminum, copper, lead and zinc.

Depending on climatic conditions, the Dominion Government estimated that bread grains to the value of \$495 million, coarse grains \$253 million, meat \$102 million, eggs \$35 million, cheese \$15 million, would be available, in addition to lesser values of other food and agricultural products.

Farm And City Parity

A. L. MOORE, Agricultural Editor of the widely read "Business Week," addressed the 1948 Farm Forum not long ago in Minneapolis. Referring to agricultural policy in relation to parity between farm and city he said:

"I have not had an agricultural policy in this country since Pearl Harbor. We have had military policy, foreign relations policy which had great impact on agriculture in this country. . . . Parity has been the demand for agriculture in this country. I understand that some buying power is some base for parity. In the case of parity to be an



World Wide photo.
This loose, hoof-length sack is the latest and most efficient travel fashion for calves in England.

News of Agriculture

exchange of goods between farm and city at a rate which will give farmers who produce the food as good a life as exists on the average in the city, and which also allows farmers to maintain the soil in a state of permanent high level fertility. I assume parity in this broad sense is the purpose of all agricultural policy. To really maintain parity is a task of gigantic proportions. It amounts to reversing a seemingly irresistible trend of history noted since the fall of Rome. . . .

"The 'average' farmer never did exist. He is a statistical wraith—an imaginary creature sired by Index Number out of Slide Rule. Yet this non-existent average farmer has chiefly influenced our opinion about agriculture.

"To successfully maintain parity between city and farm, we must first adjust our thinking to the real facts of the agricultural industry. Agriculture is not a single way of life, but is at least three ways of life—that of the big commercial producers, the subsistence farmers, and those who are some of each. This division within farming means that we will have not just one farm problem but many problems, and that solutions must therefore differ. We will have price and production problems in the real agricultural industry—among the commercial producers. In addition, we will have health and educational and social problems among the 20 per cent of the country people who produce the least. If we continue to confuse the two extremes we will never solve either group of problems, either to the satisfaction of farmers or city dwellers."

Ten-Year Friesian Never Dry

A BRITISH Friesian cow, Manningford Jan Graceful, recently completed as a 10-year-old a record of 30,748 pounds of milk in 338 days. At the conclusion of her tests, she was giving 86 pounds of milk daily. Most remarkable is the fact that this was her fourth consecutive 30,000-pound record, which makes her a world record cow. According to Farmer and Stock Breeder, one other cow had four 30,000-pound records, but not consecutively.

The British Friesian has calved six times (seven calves), has given over 80 tons of milk and has averaged 6½ gallons daily during 7½ years and has

never been dry. Her average for six lactations was 28,000 pounds.

There also has come to hand recently from New Zealand a record of a grade Friesian cow named Sucker, which last March had completed 3,273 days in one lactation, during which she had produced 5,004 pounds of fat from 122,000 pounds of milk. Of this cow the New Zealand Dairy Exporter said, "So far as is known, no other cow of any breed in any country of the world can approach Sucker's amazing production peak."

The nearest approach to her record was said to be a cow in the United States, recorded by Dr. W. E. Petersen of the University of Minnesota, that had produced about 3,500 pounds fat in a single lactation.

Sucker is from a purebred Friesian bull and a grade Friesian dam, neither being outstanding, according to the report. She showed no abnormal tendencies in early lactations, but as a rising six-year-old she calved April 7, 1939, and had been milking continuously until March 31 of this year, with no sign of terminating her lactation period.

Toads Eat Bees

IN Australia, they have giant toads six to eight inches long and four to five inches in breadth. These toads like to eat bees, and if they get a chance, will eat hundreds at each meal. These giant sugar cane toads, as they are called, have given Australian beekeepers much trouble because they visit the hives towards nightfall and with the aid of their long tongues lap up many bees from the hive entrance. Now, beekeepers must put their hives on stakes at least two feet high, or build barriers of netting around the apiaries so the toads cannot get in.

Sheep Shearing Record

IN 1890, a man named Jack Howe, in Queensland, Australia, sheared 321 sheep in eight hours and 40 minutes. What is believed to be a new world record by machine shearing was recently set by a 28-year-old Western Australian, Dan Cooper, who got through 325 lambs in one day, though his best tally for sheep in a day was 284.

A.I.C. Scholarships

FIFTEEN Canadians, all trained in agricultural science, have been awarded \$800 scholarships by the Agricultural Institute of Canada, according to Dr. R. D. Sinclair, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Alberta, who is president of the Institute.

Though many of these candidates for awards will take their advanced training in agriculture in the United States, all will return to Canada later to assume posts in the agricultural field.

Of the 15 individuals, five hail from the Province of British Columbia, one from Alberta, three from Saskatchewan, three from Manitoba, two from Ontario, and one from Quebec. They will study in widely different states and provinces, including British Columbia, Wisconsin, Ontario, New York, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Iowa and Quebec. They will also pursue their work in various fields such as soil science, plant pathology, animal nutrition, entomology, plant science, agricultural economics, rural sociology, plant genetics, animal genetics, food technology, and chemistry.

Combines To The U.S.

A N unexpected quick ripening and bumper grain harvest in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma promise to require the full quota of 400 Canadian combines this year. Until the end of June, few if any Canadian machines were expected to be needed. In these States, a surprising comeback of grain crops was expected to increase the yield from around five or six to 15 or 20 bushels per acre. With the full Canadian quota utilized, 85 Manitoba combines would go south, 207 from Saskatchewan, 90 from Alberta, and four each from Ontario and British Columbia.

Award To Dr. Hood

DR. E. G. HOOD, chief of dairy research, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has recently been awarded the 1948 Borden gold medal and \$1,000 award in dairy manufacturing research by the American Dairy Science Association. Dr. Hood graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1913, and obtained his doctor's degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1922. Most of his research has been in the field of butter and cheese. He joined the Department of Agriculture in 1923, and was the first Canadian to become a director of the American Dairy Science Association.

Dr. Barton Remains

IN our June issue, mention was made of the fact that Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, would reach retirement age in June and would retire. At the last moment, however, an announcement was made that Dr. Barton was requested to continue his service to the Department for another year, or until June, 1949. He has been Deputy Minister at Ottawa since 1932, and during the war years and since, has been particularly active in representing Canada at international conferences and on international wartime and post-war committees. He was Canadian representative on the Council of F.A.O., and headed the

Canadian delegation to the original United States conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943. His many friends across Canada will be glad to know he is able to continue his service to the industry for this additional period.

Bank For Co-ops

THERE are special banks for co-operatives operating under the Farm Credit Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture. These banks lend money to farmer co-operatives which, in one form or another, represent approximately 2,400,000 farm families. Not only do the banks for co-operatives lend to nearly 1,400 farm co-operative organizations, but to an additional 43 federated co-operatives, which between them provide financing for 5,483 local associations.

1947 Cattle Exports

IN 1947, Canada exported 83,233 head of cattle. Of these, 29,897 were purebreds, mostly of the dairy breeds. The United Kingdom secured 310 head, China 797, and the remainder were spread thinly among nearly 20 other countries, principally in South America and the Caribbeans. The United States received an additional 45,800, mostly grade dairy cattle, from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Cattle for slaughter numbered 6,250 head, of which 5,300 were sent to Newfoundland, and about 860 to St. Pierre. The total value of all cattle exported last year amounted to nearly \$15 million, or about \$3 million less than in 1946.

A. W. Peterson Promoted

A RECENT retirement from the Dominion Department of Agriculture in Ottawa was that of J. M. McCallum, who, by the peculiar terminology used in the department, carried the title of Assistant Director, Production Service, Livestock. Mr. McCallum, who had been associated with the department over a period of many years, but was better known perhaps among the horsemen, has been succeeded by A. W. Peterson, since 1937 chief of the Livestock and Poultry Division, Production Service.

Mr. Peterson first joined the Dominion Department of Agriculture in 1921 as a sheep and swine promoter. He is a native of Ottawa and a graduate of Macdonald College, Quebec.

For seven years his work took him to the Maritime Provinces. In 1928, however, he was made supervising district inspector of purebred swine, and in this capacity was responsible for developing the Advanced Registry policy for swine. In 1933 he became assistant chief, livestock field services, and since that time has had an intimate connection with Canada's bacon exports.

For a period during the war, he was on loan to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board as Meat Administrator.

Sales Of Farm Implements

FARMERS in Canada bought 47 per cent more implements in 1947 than they bought the previous year. Sixty-one per cent of these sales were made in the prairie provinces, compared to 56.1 per cent for 1946. Saskatchewan sales were up 64 per cent, Alberta 58 per cent, and Manitoba 54 per cent.

In the same period, sales of repairs increased 10 per cent. In 1947, over 71 per cent of the total sales of repair parts in Canada were made in the prairies, Manitoba increasing its purchases 16 per cent over 1946, Saskatchewan 5 per cent and Alberta 8 per cent.

The values of all machinery bought in 1947 in the three prairie provinces, based on wholesale prices, amounted to \$72,770,600, and the value of repairs, also based on wholesale prices, was \$16,384,300.

Livestock Market Losses

IN the United States there is a National Livestock Loss Prevention Board, which last year surveyed 25 of the 66 livestock markets in that country. The Board discovered that on these 25 markets, 3,694,200 pounds of dead and crippled animals arrived by rail, and 6,343,200 pounds of meat was lost on crippled and dead animals arriving by truck at 20 markets. This made a total of 10,037,400 pounds of meat lost in 1947 alone on only 25 of the 66 U.S. livestock markets. It is estimated that the 800,000 livestock farmers stood "a major part" of a national \$25 million loss on dead, crippled or bruised animals.

Cattle deaths arriving by truck were 60 per cent higher than by rail, while dead calves and hogs numbered twice as many. About 80 per cent of the market-bound livestock is transported by truck. It is reported that "each year, except for the war years, the percentage of cattle dead on arrival by truck has been much higher than by rail. Hog deaths have averaged more than twice as high in trucks, where crippling has been less. Sheep deaths averaged four times as high, and cripples three times as high in trucks as in rail shipments."

New Dean Of Agriculture

Dr. V. E. Graham has been appointed to the position of Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan. He has been Acting Dean since Dr. L. E. Kirk went to F.A.O. on leave of absence a year ago. Dr. Kirk has now accepted permanent employment with that body.

Those who know Dr. Graham will recognize the wisdom of the appointment. He brings to the position a quality of character and a breadth of experience that will serve him well in the responsibility of guiding the expanded College of Agriculture.



A. W. Peterson

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- 11A—11' 3"
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- 11AF—11' 3"
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- 15A—15' 10"
- 18" Blades
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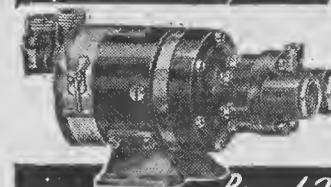
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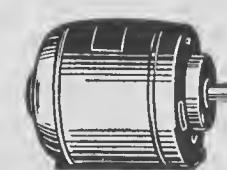
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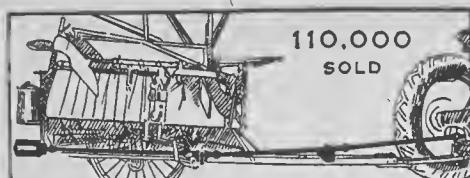


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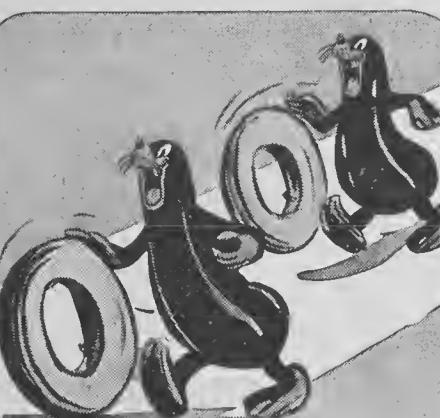
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A group of good Belgian horses on the Hargrave ranch in southeastern Alberta.

Are Milk Prices Too High?

INCREASES in prices of milk seem to have led to more consumer reaction than increases in prices of any other food product. This complaint may well be largely related to government policy with respect to milk prices. A consumer subsidy of two cents a quart was paid from late 1942 until 1946, with the result that consumers tended to think in terms of inexpensive milk. Increases in the farmers' costs of production during the war led to the introduction of a one and one-half cent producers' subsidy. In June, 1946, the two-cent consumers' subsidy was discontinued and the retail price of milk rose two cents. In October of the same year the producer subsidy was also removed, and the price of milk to the consumer rose from one and one-half to three cents a quart. The added rise over and above the amount of the producer subsidy was due to increased production and distribution costs. The net result was that, due to removal of subsidies and increases in production costs, the retail prices of milk rose sharply in 1946. Consumers found it difficult to understand the necessity for these rises. By the end of 1947 the cost of production had risen still further and sales had fallen off.

If farmers are going to produce milk the returns from milk production must be at least as great as from other commodities that they can produce. What is the actual position?

B. A. Campbell, dairy economist with the National Dairy Council of Canada, has done considerable research on the problem. Based on the assumption that the situation in Ottawa is typical of most areas in Canada, he found that the average basic delivered price to producers shipping to Ottawa had increased from \$1.95 per cwt. in 1939 to \$3.90 in December, 1947. During the same period the distributors' spread increased by 12 per cent, an increase that may well be absorbed by increased costs.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, using 1935-1939 equal to 100, as of October, 1947, finds the index of Class I wheat (U.K. contract) equal to 165.8, and Class II wheat, 336.8. Using the Canadian composite average, oats, 191.3; barley, 210.4; rye, 641.6; steers, 224.3; hogs, 183.1, and fluid milk 171.0. Milk has gone up since

this time, and as of December 1, 1947, the index was close to 200 making it more comparable with other farm products.

The farmers' costs have also risen. The same source indicates that the monthly cost of farm labor has risen from \$27.76 in 1940 to \$82.75 in 1947. The cost of grain and feeds used in feeding for milk production has also increased.

A break-down of fluid milk costs per quart for the fiscal year next preceding October 1, 1946, indicates that payment to the producer was seven cents (56.86 per cent of consumer price), processing including bottles and supplies was 1.77 cents (14.37 per cent), distributing and selling was 2.65 cents (21.53 per cent), administration and general expenses was 0.68 cents (5.33 per cent); and the net profit per quart was 0.21 cents (1.71 per cent).

Big Litters Weaned

NO small part of the profit in raising pigs arises from the size of litters. The average farm litter is sometimes said to be in the neighborhood of seven pigs. An average of eight is good, nine is very good and 10 is excellent. To find many breeders who could average 10 pigs weaned from a substantial group of sows would be outstanding, and the same would be true in the case of a single sow which, during her lifetime, could produce two litters per year over several years with an average of 10 or more pigs weaned per litter.

D. C. Smith, Westlock, Alberta, a Yorkshire breeder, has such a sow. She is purebred and registered as Townview Lass 17X and was five years old on May 10, 1948. She has produced two litters per year beginning May 3, 1944, with her ninth litter arriving on May 3, 1948. Her first litter was 10 pigs, and the second, on October 1, 1944, 11 pigs. In 1945, she farrowed 12 pigs on March 29 and 10 more on October 20. In 1946 her farrowings were 13 pigs on June 2 and 14 pigs on November 11. Last year, she produced 14 pigs on May 5 and 10 pigs on October 25 and this year 10 pigs on May 3, for a total of 104. Every pig in her first eight litters was weaned, and if the same applies to her last litter she will have averaged 11.5 pigs weaned per litter

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for nine litters, with no ridglings or ruptures. Her smallest year was her first with 21 pigs weaned, and her most productive year 1946, when she weaned 27 pigs.

Not long ago The Farm Journal credited an Iowa farmer, William Marsau, with raising and marketing more pigs per litter than any other farmer in Iowa, the most important livestock state in the Union. Marsau averaged more than nine pigs per litter twice a year, weaned, raised and marketed, from 15 sows, over a period of five years. This reads like a real record for a group of sows.

A New Zealand large white sow recently had two world records claimed for her when, with her third litter of 17 pigs (eight the first time and seven the second), she brought 15 of them to a total weight of 236 pounds at three weeks of age, or slightly less than 14 pounds each; and to a total of 725 pounds at eight weeks, or slightly more than 42 pounds each. It is hoped to bring the litter to a total weight of 3,000 pounds at six months.

Yorkshire Vs. Landrace

IN Sweden and Denmark the Landrace breed of pigs is generally used and before the war, Denmark occupied for many years an enviable place on the British market with her Danish bacon. In order to compare Canadian Yorkshire pigs and Landrace pigs for bacon hog production, the Dominion Experimental Farms System for several years compared the two breeds on several farms. In all, 227 Landrace litters and 318 Yorkshire litters were compared.

Landrace pigs weighed an average of 3.29 pounds at birth, exceeding the average weight of Yorkshires by .51 pound. The Landrace pigs also reached market weight a few days earlier than Yorkshires, and the Landrace carcasses were better in uniformity of fat and balance of side.

There was practically no difference between the two breeds in the amount of feed required per 100 pounds of gain, and the average length of the two breeds was almost identical.

The Yorkshires, however, farrowed 11.99 pigs per litter as compared with 9.42 pigs per Landrace sow, and of each litter, an average of 8.44 Yorkshire pigs were weaned, as compared with 5.9 from the Landrace litters. Yorkshire carcasses were better in thickness and firmness of fat, quality of belly and area of loin muscle. Also, when the carcass characteristics of the two breeds were measured under the Canadian Advanced Registry carcass score, the Yorkshires averaged 74.5 per cent of excellence, as compared with 72.3 per cent for the Landrace.

The two breeds were crossed also, but the crossbreeds required more feed per hundred pounds of gain than the pigs of either pure breed. When crosses were made, the use of a Yorkshire sire seems to combine more desirable carcass qualities of the two breeds than where the crosses were made in the opposite direction.

Diseases Of Cattle

DAIRY cattle are, like all livestock, subject to a variety of diseases. If the owner gives prompt and effective treatment, losses can be reduced and the incidence of the disease can be minimized.

If contagious abortion is identified, the cow should be isolated at once.

Bedding, fetus and membranes should be burnt, and stalls and floors disinfected. Be sure the cow has "cleaned." As a long-term policy the calfhood vaccination of all calves should be practiced. The provincial veterinarian in the Department of Agriculture of each province will provide details regarding the policy of calfhood vaccination.

If a cow has milk fever, treatment should be prescribed by a veterinarian. If none is available, inflating the udder with air will help. Similarly, if the afterbirth is retained, a veterinarian will have to be called to remove the membranes. In the case of pneumonia, it is also best to keep the animal blanketed, and call a veterinarian to prescribe treatment.

If mastitis (inflammation of the udder) is indicated, the cow should be isolated and milked last to avoid spreading the disease. The udder can be bathed with warm water and massaged with warm, camphorated oil. The advice of a veterinarian, if available, is again advised. Calves with scours should also be isolated, and stalls and pens disinfected. If strictly sanitary methods in feeding and care are followed, scours can be avoided.

For mild cases of bloat, two ounces of aromatic spirits of ammonia in a pint of water should be given every half hour. The animal may be fed limited amounts of hay and grain, but should be kept off feeds that are suspected of causing the bloat.

Ringworm can be cleaned up by removing the scaly crust and treating the affected spots with five parts of lard to one part of sulphur or five parts of vaseline to one part of iodine, or simply apply tincture of iodine. Foot rot is treated by syringing between the claws of the affected foot with a solution of either one part carbolic acid or one part creolin in 40 parts of water.

The control of tuberculosis is under the direction of the Health of Animals Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and if tuberculosis is indicated it should be reported to them immediately.

Balancing Grains For Hogs

GRAINS form the ideal base for the hog ration, but do not supply sufficient protein, minerals and vitamins for ideal growth and thrift, or for most economical production. Skim milk or buttermilk are valuable sources of protein for the growing pigs, but minerals must be added to the ration. If milk products are not available, tankage, fish meal and linseed oil meal, preferably combines, can be used. Commercial protein-mineral concentrates are also available. In the starting ration 12 to 15 per cent concentrate will be required, but this can be cut down for the growing and finishing stages. If pigs are fed indoors, alfalfa or clover hay, or a teaspoonful of cod liver oil per day per pig, in the feed, will prevent crippling or rickets resulting from vitamin deficiency, and will promote growth and bone development.

If hogs are full fed in the finishing period they tend to become over-fat. If the hogs are hand fed the feed can be held back to some extent. This is not so easy if a self feeder is used, but the same effect can be gained by lightening the feed mixture with bulky feeds such as alfalfa meal. As soon as the hogs reach 200 to 210 pounds they should be marketed.

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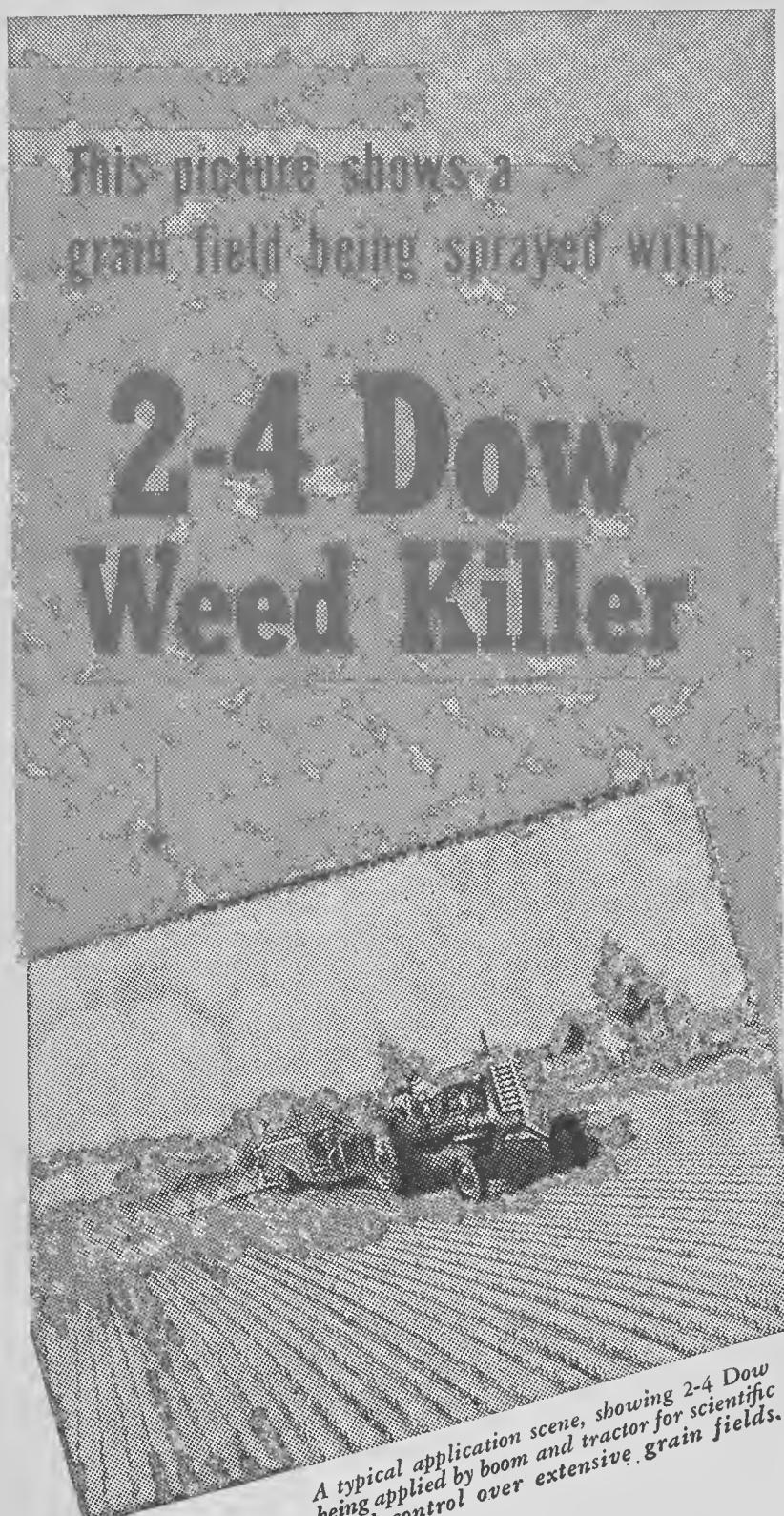


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A typical application scene, showing 2-4 Dow weed killer being applied by boom and tractor for scientific weed control over extensive grain fields.

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Thousands of farmers from one end of the nation's grain belt to the other attest the effectiveness and economy of killing weeds in crops chemically. Mixed carefully according to directions, used as recommended, 2-4 Dow Weed Killer has produced amazing results in bigger crop yield per acre.

Dow provides specific-purpose weed killers to meet a diversity of problems from general weed control to selective weed killing in crops. Consult your agricultural representative or local experiment station, or ask your qualified dealer to recommend the right Dow Weed Killer for your weed problem. Dow.

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FIELD



A southern Saskatchewan wheat field. A short crop is in prospect this year over a wide area which may make it difficult to provide 140 million bushels for Britain

Studying Foothills Range Grasses

THE range areas in the foothills of Alberta are to be studied to determine how reseeding of depleted ranges may best be carried on, what forage crops are most suitable, the best methods of eradicating range weeds, and other problems related to carrying capacity.

It appears that already there are some portions of the foothill country which are at the dandelion stage as a result of overgrazing. This, so authorities at Lethbridge state, represents the last stage of deterioration. In the first stage the bunch grass and other palatable grasses give way to those less palatable and to weeds which are better able to withstand trampling by cattle, and grazing. Overgrazing in the southern part of the foothills is often indicated by large plants of shrubby cinquefoil, while farther north the western snowberry provides the same sort of indicator. Other pasture weeds in other areas tell the same story. Some tests have been made to determine the usefulness of 2,4-D in controlling pasture weeds, and these will be continued.

It is reported that last summer root sections of some older, shrubby cinquefoil plants were examined on the range and were found to be from 40 to 50 years old, whereas the stems showed only from one to 18 years of growth.

Pastures Need Care

POOR pasture management is probably as prevalent a cause as any other farm practice in western Canada which prevents maximum farm income from being secured. Good management not only increases the persistence of grasses or legumes, but may also affect the yield, quality and feed value of the resulting feed.

One of the most unfortunate practices is that of over-grazing. New seeding laid down early in the fall may be pastured by midsummer, but care must be taken that the field is not overgrazed. Brome, crested wheat grass, alfalfa and sweet clover generally begin flowering toward the end of June or early July and this is the time that these crops and most wild prairie and slough grasses should be cut if a crop of good hay is to be secured. Delay beyond that period means not only lower protein content, but decreased digestibility of the feed.

The amount of grass or pasture crops allowed for pasture should be large enough that in a year when the rainfall is at least average, some of the grass will not be needed for pasture. Furthermore, it must be remembered that the amount of stock which crested wheat grass and brome will carry in the spring months is three or four times that of prairie wool, which means that the native grass should be held for summer pasture and the crested wheat and brome used earlier. Crested wheat grass is particularly useful for early spring and for fall pasture. During the summer months it tends to become brown and more or less unpalatable.

Uniform grazing is desirable, but the livestock owner must help bring it about. One way is to provide sources of water for large pastures, so that cattle will not continually pasture close to the nearest water supply and leave that farther away untouched.

Commercial fertilizers will increase yields of grasses, but to be effective must be applied at rates from 200 to 300 pounds per acre. Barnyard manure, also, at rates of from 12 to 15 tons per acre, will give satisfactory responses.

Summerfallow Costs

IF figures collected by the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon from 17 illustration stations in Manitoba are any guide, it cost \$5.73 per acre in 1947 to summerfallow a field in Manitoba. The range of costs was from \$3.58 to \$8.44 per acre; plowing costs were \$1.52; one-way discing 84 cents; and cultivating 60 cents per operation.

The cost of chemical summerfallowing, or the use of chemical weed killers, instead of cultural practices for weed control, is estimated at 90 cents per acre for the cost of the chemical for one application, and 50 cents per acre to operate a tractor, or truck, and spraying machinery. This makes \$1.40 per acre, or more than twice the cost of one cultivation, in addition to the fact that only a few of the perennials and only the less resistant of the annuals will be killed.

Nevertheless, improper mechanical tillage may conceivably do more harm than good. Cultivation which buries the trash cover and pulverizes the soil, instead of leaving the surface lumpy, invites damage from dust storms. High

speed operation of one-way discs and improper use of blade and rod weeders often waste time and effort without accomplishing weed killing and the maintenance of a good trash cover.

Topsoil Appreciation

SOIL conservationists, both in Canada and the United States, are becoming alarmed by the general indifference of many farmers to erosion. With the current high prices for grains, much sub-marginal land is being broken up. Soils that have little or no fibre left in them are being plowed and disced and seeded year after year instead of being put into grass. Vast areas of bush are being shorn clean of tree growth with caterpillars and brush cutters. The wind is literally being invited to reap his harvest. Then on hilly and sloping farmlands, except where contour farming is practised, heavy rains carry away millions of tons of the stuff upon which the whole future existence of humanity depends. It is not a reassuring, over-all picture.

On a recent visit to a western city, I came across a heartening little example of topsoil appreciation. Out in the suburbs a large block of virgin prairie was being built up by a contractor. Basements were being dug with the aid of a dragline and all the topsoil from each three cellars was put into one pile and the subsoil elsewhere. Not content with that, the contractor stripped the surveyed streets and alley-ways, heaping the virgin sod up into big piles with a bulldozer. Only after trucks had hauled these away, did grading and graveling get under way. Quite rightly, the man in charge of the work reasoned that dead, inert subsoil was good enough for people to drive over and would likely make a harder roadbed than if black loam were in it.

After this topsoil has been allowed to rot for a year, the contractor will start to cash in on his idea. He will be selling that sod at about \$5.50 per two-yard load and will make more money than men who strip mine coal. Some of this loam will go for lawns but the most for gardens and will thus be helping to support human life for many years to come.

In reality, topsoil is priceless and not to be valued at so much per cubic yard or ton. If the human race is not to pass into oblivion via the starvation route, all of us who work with the soil will have to appreciate it. And that appreciation will have to take the form of making topsoil conservation our number one aim, even if it means a cut in the immediate dollar returns from our farms. Robert J. Roder, Alta.

Hard Work—And Efficiency

A BRITISH farmer writing to the Farmer and Stock Breeder recently reported that he had been able to increase the gross output per acre on an 85-acre farm over a period of 24 years from seven pounds per acre to £150 per acre. The farm was originally "starved" but its output in the first year was equal to the average for British agriculture as a whole.

Commenting on the achievement of himself and his brother working together he said, "It has been done by taking a long view and careful planning. The work is planned day

by day and week by week, to make the very best use of time, labor and materials.

"The accumulated effect of studying every detail and maintaining a balance between every department on the farm has contributed most to the steadily increasing output. Such a prosperity, which comes from efficiency, means that the farm can be fully equipped for a high level of production."

The British farmer, incidentally, states that the greatest contribution in recent years has been the installation of electricity. Western Canadian farms are just beginning to be served by this wonder-working time saver.

This illustration, if it does nothing more, proves the universality of efficiency and hard work in successful farming. Providence helps those who help themselves.

Honey Bees Can Be Trained

DURING recent years, the problem of getting a good set of alfalfa seed has received considerable attention. The seed growers in the northern seed growing areas have occasionally suffered from seriously reduced yields apparently attributable to failure of insect pollinators to trip the flowers. It has been commonly supposed that honey bees are less attracted to alfalfa than to sweet clover, and also that they are much less efficient than the wild bees in tripping the alfalfa blossoms.

W. G. Le Maistre, Alberta Provincial Apriarist, argues that the seed grower's best friend is the commercial beekeeper, and says that the seed grower might do well to provide inducements to the beekeeper to locate on or near his clover. He points out that Alberta farmers growing clover and alfalfa for seed had found where several hives of bees were kept near their clover fields, the yield of seed was sometimes very much greater than when no hives were near.

In 1947, a special committee in Manitoba did some experimental work from an apiary at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, which seemed to indicate that, other factors being equal, alfalfa blooms should be as attractive to honey bees as sweet clover from the standpoint of nectar concentration. With the idea of experimenting with the training of honey bees, two colonies were fed alfalfa flower extract in sugar syrup twice weekly throughout July, and two colonies not similarly fed were used as checks. All four colonies were equipped with pollen traps and the pollen collected was weighed daily, dried, stored, and later analyzed to see whether feeding the alfalfa extract actually encouraged pollen gathering from alfalfa bloom. The maximum amount of pollen stored, by any one colony in one day was 108 grams, and the two colonies fed the flower extract stored totals of 1,045 and 1,152 grams of pollen, as compared with 148 and 507 grams from the check colonies.

The committee also experimented with 20 different types of plants. Bees were collected from the bloom of each and the contents of their honey stomachs examined to determine the nectar concentration arising from each type of plant. That of yellow sweet clover ranged from 27 to 62 per cent, and from alfalfa from 11 to 60 per cent, when compared for the same date and time of taking the samples.

Notice of Dividend No. 38

United Grain Growers Limited

Class "A" Shares

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors has declared a dividend at the rate of 5% on the paid-up par value of Class "A" (Preferred) Shares (par value \$20 each).

This dividend will be paid on or about September 1st, 1948, to holders of such shares of record at the close of business on Saturday, July 31st, 1948.

By order of the Board,

D. G. MILLER,
Secretary.

July 6th, 1948.
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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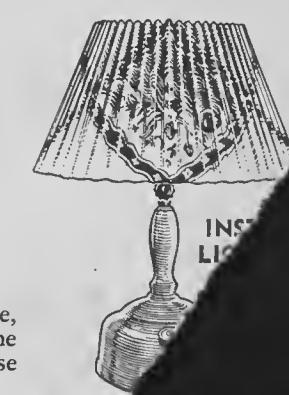
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The biggest danger of tillage operations in summerfallow is erosion—both soil and wind erosion. Recent experiments now indicate that *chemical* summerfallow, with Green Cross Agricultural Weed-No-More, cuts down the chances of this ever-present menace. Chemical summerfallow can help save your land!

DANGERS OF OLD SUMMERFALLOW METHODS

When fallow is plowed, stubble of previous crop is turned under and its value in checking surface wind is lost. Soil is exposed to the hazard of wind erosion. The top two or three inches dry out, leaving an insulating layer preventing further evaporation from subsoil. But, every time a field is cultivated, that layer is destroyed and fresh moist soil is turned up and immediately dried by wind and sun. New weed seeds are brought to the surface to germinate and make another cultivation necessary, with the result that more soil is dried out. Lastly, continuous cultivation breaks down soil particles so that they are readily picked up by the wind and we have disastrous *soil erosion*.

ADVANTAGES OF CHEMICAL SUMMERFALLOW

No plowing is necessary. You simply spray weeds away with Agricultural Weed-No-More, leaving the stubble to stop wind erosion. Top soil is not disturbed and remains to stop evaporation from moist soil below. *No new weed seeds are brought to the surface to germinate.* Most important advantage of chemical weed control is that it may reduce the acreage under non-productive fallow. If moisture is not the limiting factor, weeds can be controlled *while* land is producing a paying crop.

CHEMICAL SUMMERFALLOW SPRAY PROGRAM WITH AGRICULTURAL WEED-NO-MORE

Consult your weed classification list before spraying. Where weeds are susceptible to Agricultural Weed-No-More, follow the following four-point spray program. (Chemical summerfallow is not recommended when perennial weeds, wild oats, foxtails, or volunteer grain are a problem).

1. Apply at the rate of 24 ounces of Agricultural Weed-No-More per acre.
2. Spray when most weeds have germinated but *before* first plant produces new seed.
3. Repeat as necessary, to prevent new weed seed being produced by later growing plants. Two applications should suffice.
4. Spray again following year, to kill any weeds growing from seed brought to the surface by pre-seeding tillage.

Order Agricultural Weed-No-More from your Green Cross or Massey-Harris dealer now.

THE LOWE BROTHERS COMPANY LIMITED

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OF CANADA, LIMITED

Winter . . . And Trees

Part I—Some basic considerations incidental to the prevention of winter killing

by R. J. HILTON

HOW can we introduce such a vast subject as winter-hardiness and such a contentious one . . . without taking much more space than is available? So very many phases of agricultural science and practice are involved such as nutrition, wind velocity, soil structure, annual and seasonal precipitation, cultural practices, not to minimize the importance of heredity that it is not easy to know just where to begin.

First let us go to the "common denominator" of all plants—the cell. We find that what happens within this microscopic part of the plant, during temperature extremes, will affect the future welfare of the plant. The temperature extreme of most concern here is the low one; what will sub-zero days and nights do to these tiny storehouses of plant life? Research workers give two more or less related effects: (1) The free water within the cell may freeze and in doing so may mechanically rupture the cell so as to cause death; (2) The formation of ice crystals within the cell may result in a form of drying out; this in turn causes a coagulation of the cell protoplasm (the living material) and this will result in death as soon as thawing commences.

Now, these effects are not likely to be the only two that are concerned with freezing injury to plant tissue, but they are the most important. And, like so many of Nature's processes, they are not static but may be affected easily by all sorts of environmental conditions and by the inherited structure of the tree itself. Apparently, then, our hope of influencing hardiness, once our apple tree is planted, lies chiefly in paying attention to some of these environmental factors. Following is a list—a summary of possible means at our disposal for increasing winter hardiness in trees.

EVERY year farmers in the prairie provinces are paying more and more attention to the chemical requirements of their crops. Plants must have certain chemicals before they can manufacture food, just as they must also have light and water. What goes for grain and potatoes, it is found, goes for all other plants as well, though the proportions and amounts may vary somewhat. How, then, may the feeding of nutrients to a tree affect its hardiness? To get the answer to this we have to go back again to the cell. Each cell contains a certain amount of "free" water, also some water in colloidal form called "bound" water, and some stored plant food, the carbohydrates. In addition, many cells contain certain fats, resins, tannin and other manufactured products. The higher the amounts of bound water and stored food products, in proportion to the free water, the greater ability the cell has to stand low temperatures. Hence fertilizer practices and cultural practices designed to promote this condition will provide some measure of hardiness control. The effect may not be great, but it may tip the balance in favor of one

tree overwintering and another one not doing so.

One means of achieving this effect is by the application of phosphate fertilizers (superphosphate, bone meal, or mixed fertilizers high in phosphorus). A relatively high phosphorus-nitrogen ratio has been shown to mature plants earlier than usual. This will tend to reduce free water in the cells, as well as to aid the plant to store a maximum amount of carbohydrate before winter sets in for good. Another method is to allow weed cover to grow around the trees in late summer and early fall. This has the two-fold advantage of reducing the available nitrogen during the "maturing" period, and adding to the nitrogen available the next spring, as the fibre of weeds or cover crop is worked into the soil surface.

THE physical nature of our soils is often ignored. If soils are too clayey or too gravelly, we may so upset both water and nutrition availability that we encourage spasmodic or interrupted growth phases during what should be a normal, smooth growth and maturing cycle. Thus early summer droughts are more harmful on a light or a baked soil, and late summer rains following such a period may encourage late growth on into the fall. This means sappy "withy" shoots, and this type of growth, when it is made late in the season, cannot "harden" properly; such immature wood results in our most common form of winter injury.

Soil structure may be improved by the use of strawy stable manures, straw mulch, cover crops and garden refuse turned into the soil and by not over-cultivating the land. Cultivation should only be done when necessary for weed control or to turn organic matter into the soil.

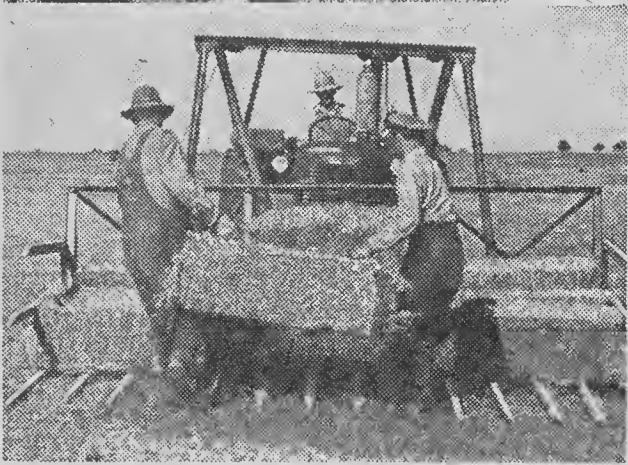


Hardy and widely distributed, the Opata plum-sandcherry is well thought of by Abraham Smith, Macrorie, who sent us this picture.



Take my tip... Keep your eye on FARMHAND for new ideas that work!

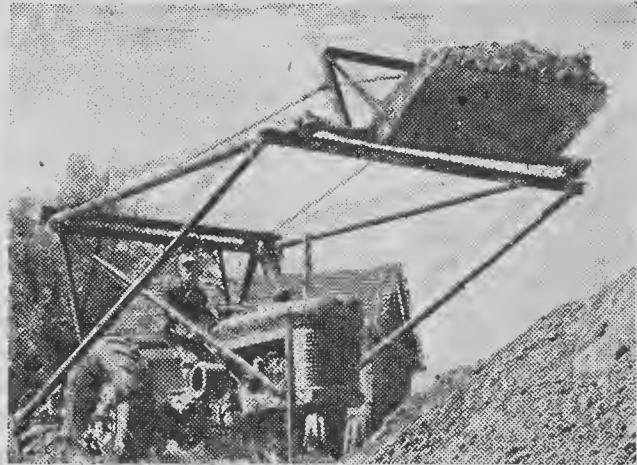
There's smart engineering built into every FARMHAND Loader and Prairie Mulcher to save us farmers money... work... time. See for yourself!



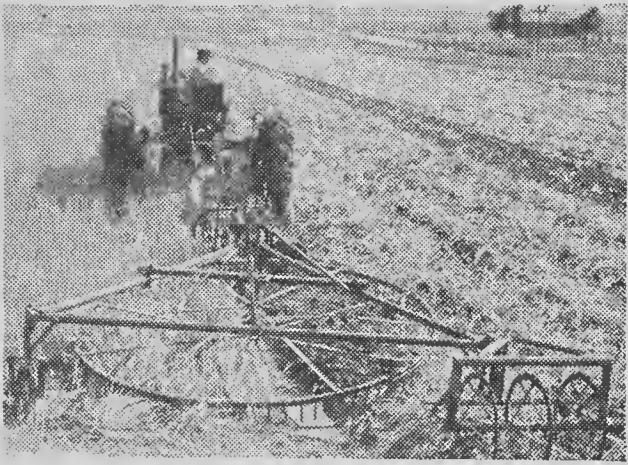
3,000 LB. LIFT WITH MINIMUM STRAIN on my tractor or wheels. FARMHAND cradles this tremendous weight on its rugged steel frame that extends the full length of the tractor... distributes the load so there's no undue stress on the front end to bog down or damage expensive equipment. Load is under complete control, thanks to FARMHAND's smooth hydraulic action.



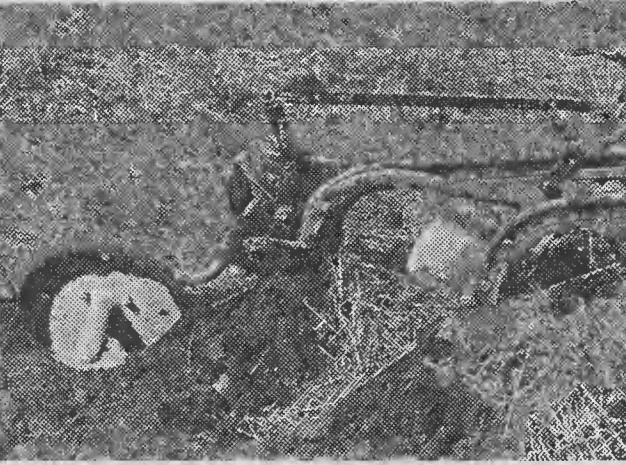
FULL 21-FOOT REACH under heavy loads. FARMHAND carries 'em high or low... but always well out in front and clear of tractor for extra safety and good visibility. Hoists loads easily over fences and obstacles... deposits them in wagons or bins with complete accuracy. Super r-e-a-c-h makes FARMHAND extra useful for scaffold work, pole setting and other high reach jobs.



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ANOTHER FARMHAND "FIRST" is the Prairie Mulcher. It's a whole "soil conservation program" built into one machine! That big rotary rake makes use of nature's own soil protector, the tangle of loose straw, stubble and vegetation, to hold down freshly plowed earth, mulch it and bind it against the erosive effects of wind and water.



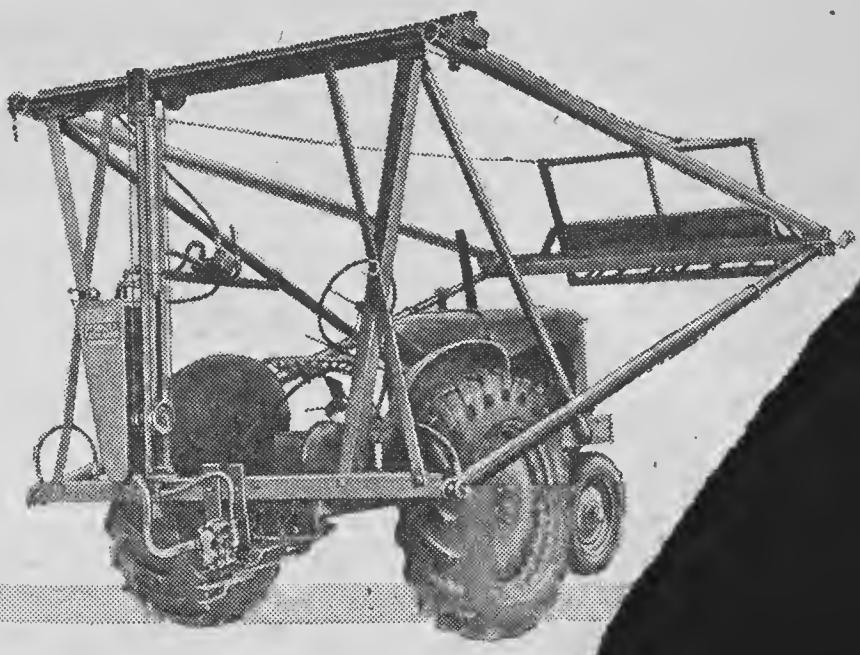
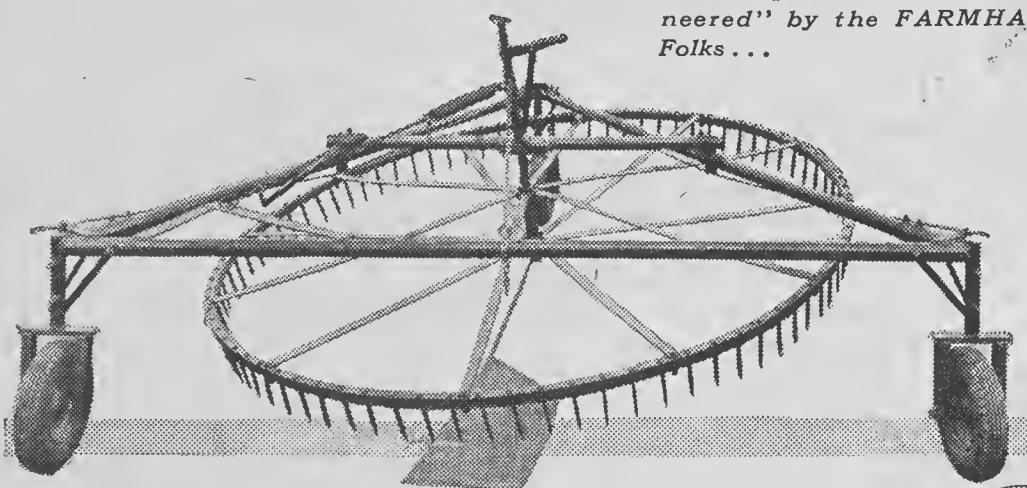
NO MORE PLUGGED PLOWS! And no more straw burning, either! All that rich, nourishing straw is mulched into the soil where it builds fertility, conserves moisture. The FARMHAND Prairie Mulcher scatters more than 70% of surface vegetation over the plowed earth. Permits deep plowing which buries weed seeds. Ideal for fall plowing, spring plowing, summer fallowing.



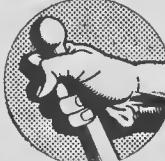
SEE THE DIFFERENCE? At the right in this picture is unmulched soil... turned... left vulnerable to wind and water erosion. At the left is ground protected and covered by action of the Prairie Mulcher. Simple to operate... works with 2-3 and 4-5 bottom plows and one-way plows... leaves a smooth seed bed with minimum of air pockets. Welded tubular steel construction.

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Care Of The Young Stock

IN the course of our extension trips throughout the country during the past summers, we have seen a large number of flocks of growing birds. Some of these flocks were in excellent condition, while a good many others were in poor shape. Almost invariably this difference has been due to management practices, except where an outbreak of disease has occurred. In many cases, even the disease is a result of poor management.

Growing birds require a well-balanced diet. This means a growing mash plus increasing amounts of whole grains as the birds approach maturity. The mash should be available at all times and it is customary

equate diet during the summer if we hope to take advantage of the higher egg prices which exist during the winter months. Growing mash should be available at all times and whole grain can be fed in increasing quantities after about eight weeks of age. As long as the pasture remains green, it would do no harm to close down the mash hoppers for a part of the day. This will encourage the birds to forage more and at the same time will save on mash, perhaps as much as 10 to 15 per cent.

Don't force the pullets into early production. Small birds won't prove to be profitable. During the latter part of the growing season (about 20 weeks of age) the pullets should be eating two to three times as much grain as



[Guide photo.]
Good range for young growing stock is important in developing strong, well-developed pullets for winter layers.

to feed the grain mixture once a day. Another good practice is to have a small hopper of whole oats. The chickens will adjust their mash and grain consumption according to their individual needs.

Plenty of fresh, clean water and some form of shade are essential at this time of the year. Green feed is highly desirable, but often our range dries out in July. When this happens there isn't much that can be done until the next good rain. However the growing mash will provide some green feed in dried form.

Finally, keep the young and old stock separate at all times. This one simple management practice may prevent an outbreak of disease.

Growing Birds on Range

THERE is very little doubt that the most of us realize the value of green feed for chickens, whether they are layers or growing birds. However good the range may be, it does not provide a complete diet for the growing stock. Don't be content this summer to let the chicks grow on grain (whole or chopped) as the only supplement to the green feed in the pasture. Such a feeding program will result in slow-maturing birds with a higher than average number of culled in the fall. During the summer, our chief aim should be to develop the growing stock into full bodied pullets of good size for the breed and giving every indication of being able to withstand the strain of heavy production throughout the coming winter and spring.

These pullets must be given an ad-

mash. This will fill them out and they will be in good shape when they come into lay.

Changing Times

THE trend today is to market all the hens during the summer months and replace them with the pullets. In other words, there is a greater tendency for a 100 per cent replacement of the laying stock each year than in the past. What are the reasons for this shift in our production methods? One very important reason is disease control.

Avian tuberculosis is very prevalent on the prairies and the most common method of spreading this disease is the contact of young and old birds. The disease is chronic in nature, that is, a young bird may become infected, but rarely does it exhibit any symptoms until it is about a year of age. That is the reason why more birds die from tuberculosis in the spring and summer than in fall and winter. A practical way of controlling this disease is to break the cycle of infection by disposing of the hens each year.

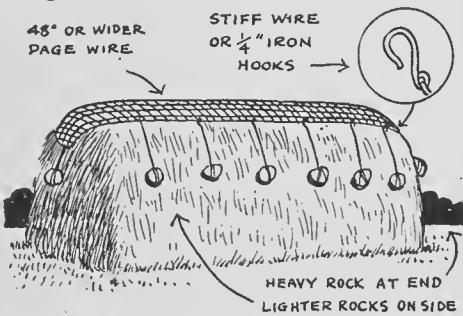
While it is true the cost of replacing the entire flock each year is more expensive than keeping over some of the hens for a second year, these hens do not lay as many eggs as when they were pullets. It has been estimated that their second year production will be about 75 per cent of the first year. Also, they are molting during part of the time when egg prices are at their peak (September-January). On the other hand, the pullets are increasing in production during this period.

A Stitch In Time Saves Nine

Farm income comes from saving—time—crops—waste—money

Tying Down Stacks

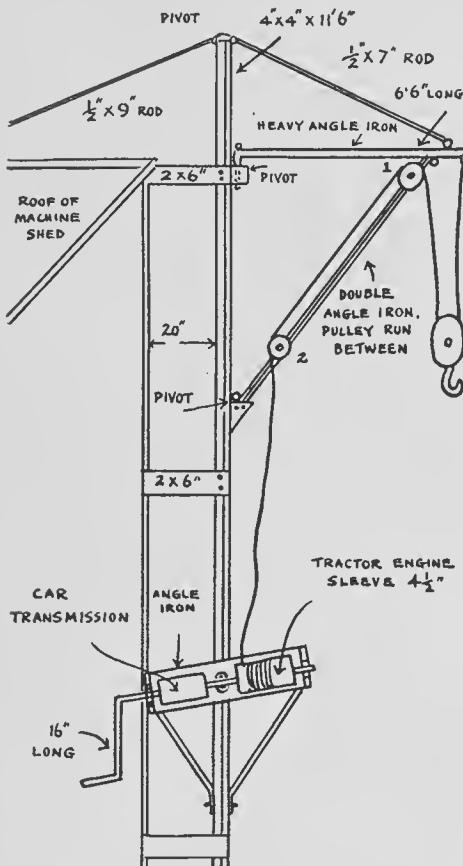
In my experience, stacks in an exposed, windy location are best tied down with four-foot-wide page wire, cut into 20 or 30-foot pieces for easier handling. Two or three kling snaps on the end of each piece makes it possible to join together pieces for any length of stack. Hang heavy weights on each end of the stack and



lighter ones on the side, and the wire acts like a net and prevents bad storms from tearing sections out of the top. Tying down sides is slow, but I made several dozen small hooks from heavy wire and light rods, joining these with seven-foot pieces and 12-gauge smooth wire to suitable iron weights and notched stones. Thus, when the wire is stretched lengthwise, I only go along the sides with a short ladder and hook the other weights on. This equipment is permanent and can be used over and over again.—Robert J. Roder.

Useful Farm Hoist

Here is a very handy farm hoist that I built on the corner of the machine shed, and for which I find many uses. I fill the tractor with gas by using a short piece of chain with a hook on each end to grab the barrel, and use a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hose eight feet long with a shut-off valve on a piece of one-inch pipe ten inches long. It is

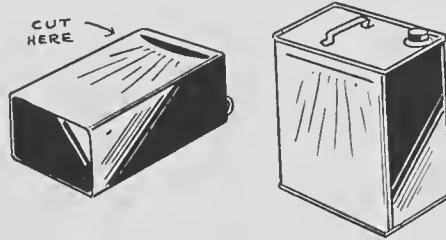


also used for lifting either end of the car, taking the drive wheel off the tractor, removing wagon boxes, and for killing pigs and beef. The standard is a 4x4-inch piece 11 feet six inches long and the arm is a piece of heavy angle iron braced to the top of the upright by a pivoted one-half inch by seven-inch iron piece. The

cross arm is six feet six inches long and swings in a half circle. The cable is $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick and is wound on a tractor engine four and one-half inches deep, operated by an old car transmission and a 16-inch handle. I took the top off the transmission and made a heavy tin lid for it so that I could easily adjust the gears by hand. I use low gear or reverse for heavy lifting, and high gear for a lock. The cross arm is heavy angle iron and the base underneath it is of double angle iron with the pulleys running between them. The frame for the drum and transmission is also of angle iron.—Bert McGratt.

Storing Waste Oil

A receiver for waste oil can be made from a discarded three-gallon rectangular oil can. This makes it unnecessary to raise the car or use a funnel. Make a cut across the width



of the can on the side opposite the screw cap, approximately one-half inch below the top edge of the can. By making a depression below the cut, the trough will be formed for receiving oil as it drains from the crankcase. The can can then be set upright after draining is completed and the oil stored for future use.—Harold A. Nelson.

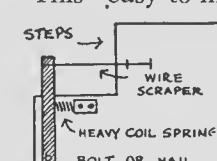
Tractor Grain-Saver

Here is a diagram of a device which might be called a tractor grain saver. It is made of a board 12 inches wide and five feet long, with a hole cut near one end large enough to slip over the end of a tractor axle. The other end is pointed, with a curved piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ x1-inch scrap iron bolted along the under side. A heavy two-inch wagon tire is bent into a double-L-shape and two holes drilled through each end part, so that when one end is bolted near the middle of the board and the other to the tractor frame, the board will be parallel to the tractor frame and the front end, so it will clear the ground when turning. This device acts as a divider to lift leaning grain up so it will not be run down by the wheels, but will be pulled into the binder or combine. For heavy grain extra support will be needed from a wire or light cable extending from the boards to the top of the tractor.—I.W.D.



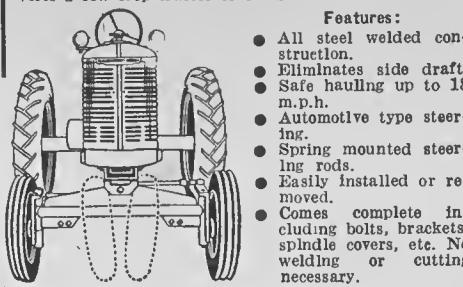
Mud Scraper Assembly

This easy-to-make scraper works better than even a boughten one. A piece of good heavy wire, a bit of hardwood or fir and an old coiled spring are the principal parts of the set-up which is attached to the kitchen steps as usual.—Cecil Tuininga, Neerlandia, Alta.



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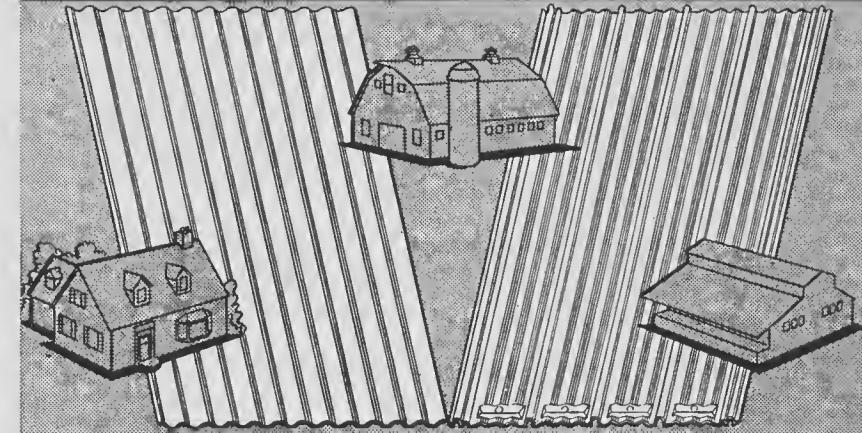
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WHY CAN'T WE GET MORE BRITISH GOODS?

Continued from page 7

Government and to all thinking loggers, miners, fishermen and farmer's in the West who genuinely desire to buy more from Britain so that their best customers can go on taking the products of their mines, farms, rivers and forests.

Britain has to import huge quantities of food and raw materials, and will have to continue to do so, for she cannot feed herself, and her natural resources are few, and not abundant. In most commodities the sellers' market is now over; questions of price are becoming more and more of paramount importance. Allegations are often made, in sweeping generalizations, that U.K. prices are too high. In many cases, of course, they are high, but the quality is still there for those who want quality in a world

output of the British community is 10 to 20 per cent higher in volume (in value it is far higher) than it was in the years immediately preceding the last war. It would be idle and quite foolish to deny that there are no sore spots, but Britain is now exporting coal once again, and quite clearly a great deal of much-needed re-organization and modernization is taking place in the cotton textile industry of Lancashire which is already bearing fruit and will help very considerably indeed to restore Britain's national economy as time goes on.

WHEN fighting ceased in the summer of 1945 it is possible that Britons sat back and slumped more heavily than North Americans, and perhaps they thought they had a right to do so, for, with the exception of the Russians, they had suffered greater losses and physical devastation than those of their Allies who were still on their legs at the



Loading British cars for export at Newport

where values in many things, as well as in merchandise, have declined quite considerably.

As a U.K. trade commissioner in western Canada the writer often notices a tendency to ignore altogether corresponding increases in much North American merchandise. The fact is little known, in western Canada at any rate, that the prices of goods which Britain has to import from abroad (mainly food and raw materials, a great deal of which comes from North America) have increased at a greater rate than the prices of the manufactured goods which Britain is trying to sell in the markets of the world, including North America. Whereas in 1938 the sale of three British radio sets earned enough money to buy two tons of wheat we in Britain must now sell four radio sets in order to buy the same quantity of wheat. And for one reason or another Britain is not allowed these days to sell radio sets in Canada at all.

(Ed. Note: 1938 price of wheat 88 cents per bushel.)

The allegation is often made loosely and without knowledge of the facts it is feared, that Britons are not working in these days, but there is very little doubt that the aggregate

finish. But it is undeniably true that reality is now being grimly faced, and that the British Government, which has given Canada top priority in Britain's Export Drive, and British manufacturers and exporters are looking to Canada as a field in which to earn the hard currency which they so badly need.

Already U.K. exports to Canada are higher in value than in pre-war years, and a far greater appreciation of what Canada can take from Britain in the shape of suitably styled and competitively priced merchandise is now being grasped by U.K. manufacturers. A great change in the calibre of the representatives from U.K. firms visiting Canada has taken place during the past few months, and it is indeed encouraging to observe that top level directors and executives are now coming out to see for themselves what opportunities there may be, what Canadians want (and not what they themselves might want to supply), and are intelligently building up distributive and servicing organizations in Canada to cater to the needs of the market.

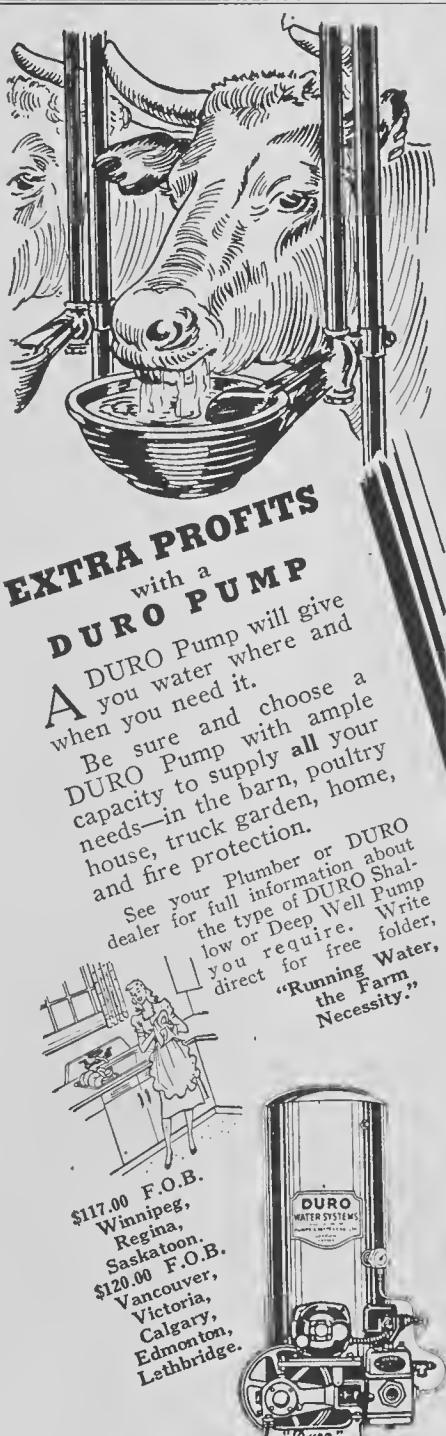
These representatives are constantly being impressed by the opportunities which await them in Canada, and particularly in western Canada, where

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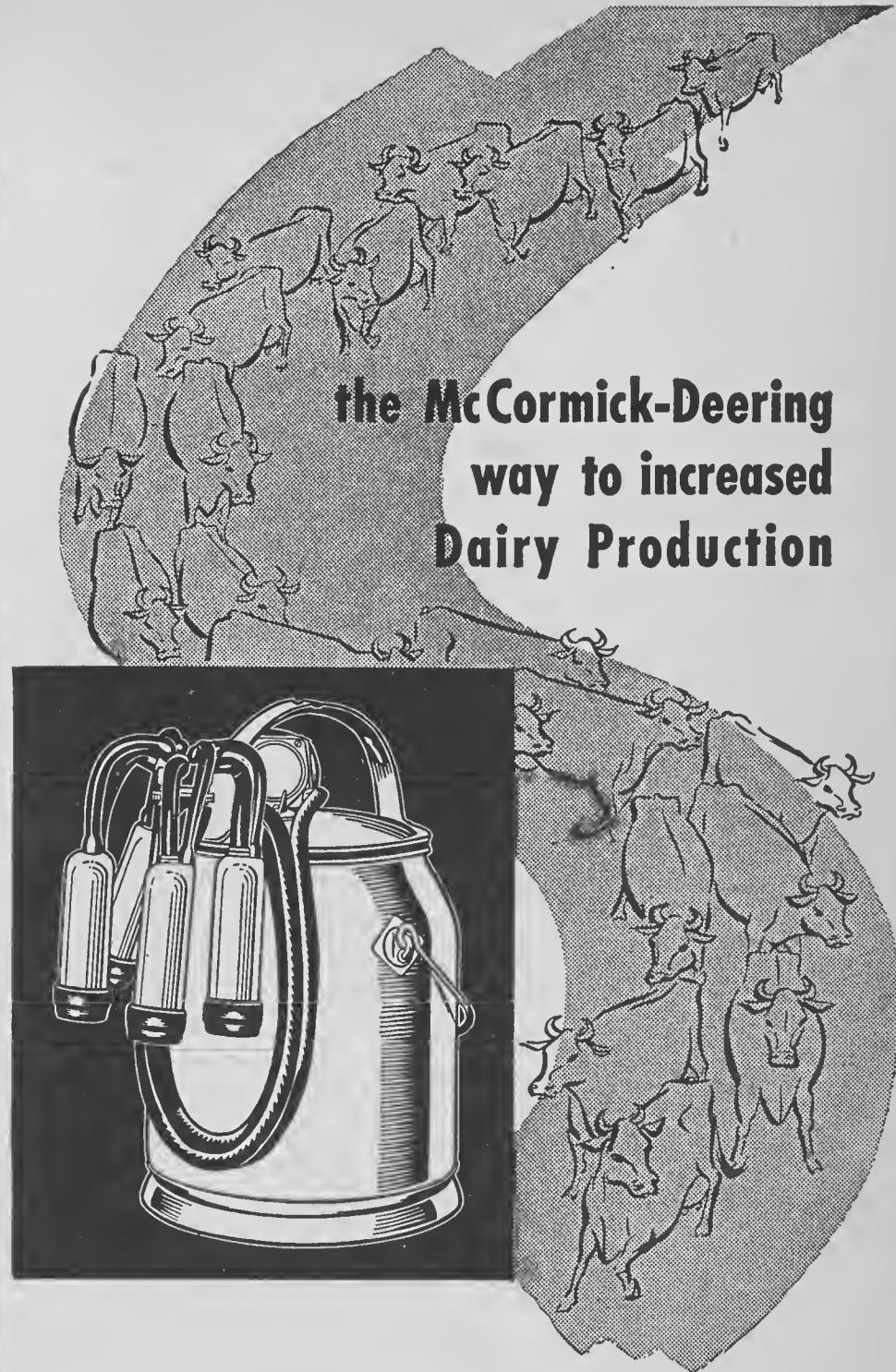
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perhaps greater development, from the very incipient and more rapidly growing nature of the West itself, can be looked for than in eastern Canada where much industrialization has already occurred, but where greater and more wonderful growth still will undoubtedly take place. In consumer goods of quality it is the writer's opinion that Britain will continue not only to hold her own but to expand her trade in the Canadian market, but he looks forward to greatly increased business resulting from the capital goods and services which she can offer. Highly placed representatives of U.K. engineering firms with world-wide reputations have travelled across Canada during recent months, and more are coming, and they are by no means defeatist in their attitude and outlook. Much has of course to be done in the reconstruction of their own country, but they are quite obviously impressed by the tremendous opportunities in power development, irrigation, sewage, rural electrification, industrial development and so on, which exist in this great country, and they tell of the very genuine co-operation they receive and of the great desire to join forces and to pool knowledge and experience for the mutual good of both countries.

HALF a loaf is always better than no bread at all, and when the time comes when direct sales may no longer be possible, owing to the growth of domestic or other competition, far-seeing U.K. industrialists are no longer withdrawing from the market, as they have tended to do in the past, but they are exploring the possibility of supplying know-how, techniques, materials and perhaps essential parts and having their products manufactured in Canada under license or on a royalty basis.

Whereas a short ten years ago we in Britain were content to obtain what Canadian trade we could in a somewhat haphazard manner in a multitudinous range of merchandise from abrasives to zippers we are now looking for development on much broader and larger lines. The effect of the searching examinations of the Canadian market being made by serious U.K. investigators will not be immediately apparent, but much useful and indeed necessary and indispensable knowledge of Canadian conditions and needs is now being acquired and turned to advantage. That is planning rather of the long-term variety, for the ultimate answer to Britain's post-war industrial effort lies in the mines and at the benches, looms and lathes in British factories.

Britain's efforts since 1945, and particularly during the last year or so, are greater than are generally realized; there are one or two exceptions, but the record is indeed a very creditable one. Much has to be done in the modernization, mechanization, and expansion of the basic industries such as coal, power, steel, agriculture and textiles, and, certainly for the next few years, the price of improved prosperity for Britain will be in increased and intensified effort. But a willing and sacrificial spirit abounds, and in Britain they are now steadily but surely achieving the difficult—it will take them a little longer to perform the impossible.



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•This feature is furnished monthly by United Grain Growers Limited

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

Drop In Export Wheat Price

During somewhat more than a year a large decline has taken place in the "world" price of wheat. That fact has not attracted any great notice in western Canada because attention here tends to be focussed on the average price to be realized by producers from the five-year pool. The extent of the decline can be measured by the fact that The Canadian Wheat Board price for Class 2 wheat, that is, wheat exported to countries other than Great Britain has declined by almost one dollar per bushel from the high point which was reached in December, 1947. During that month sales were made on the basis of \$3.40 per bushel while towards the end of July, 1948, the Class 2 price had dropped to \$2.47 per bushel, or by 93 cents per bushel.

The Class 2 price for Canadian wheat fluctuates, generally speaking, just about as price levels do on the Chicago market and every change there tends to be reflected in the Canadian price. For a considerable time the Canadian price has actually been above the price quoted for Chicago wheat, as The Canadian Wheat Board has been able to exact a premium, corresponding with the higher milling value of Canadian wheat as compared with contract grades at Chicago or corresponding with cash premiums which prevail from time to time in different markets and most importantly at Kansas City.

The Chicago price has been declining fairly steadily during 1948 for two main reasons. One is the fact that the European food situation has been eased by the tremendous exports of wheat made by the United States, and that prospects for the coming year are very much better on account of good harvests in sight in most European countries. Then, as it became apparent that the United States was again to harvest a great wheat crop, actually close to a record yield with more than one billion two hundred million bushels, immediately available supplies have been in excess of current demands.

Prices on American markets have tended to decline towards the support level established by means of loans on wheat at 90 per cent of parity price that makes a support level close to \$2.25 on the Chicago market. An American farmer does not need to sell at less than that price because he can get a government loan on that basis and hold his wheat for a number of months in the hope of a higher price. The market does not advance as he does not need to repay the loan instead can surrender his wheat to the government in full

A decline in the price of wheat has not been as great as farmers as would have had last year's prospective commodity. Then this

more wheat open market have had, during year, such ex-Canadian

domestic requirements and the quantity which Great Britain is entitled to buy on the contract basis.

Just at the time when the decline in "world" prices might have attracted notice, attention in this country has been mainly directed to the fact that the contract price to Great Britain, and presumably the level for Canadian domestic prices has been due to advance from a basis of \$1.55 per bushel to a basis of \$2.00. Then again Ontario winter wheat was released from control so that farmers in that province have been getting well over \$2.00 per bushel for their wheat as compared with \$1.63 previously, made up of a ceiling price of \$1.55, plus eight cents received as a supplementary payment out of proceeds of fees for export permits.

One way of expressing what has occurred in wheat prices is to say that there has been a substantial narrowing of the gap, formerly very wide, between the British contract and Canadian domestic price level and prices prevailing elsewhere.

Equalization Fees Reduced

The Canadian Wheat Board continued during July a policy of steady reduction in equalization fees charged for permits to export oats and barley. At the beginning of the past crop year export of whole oats and barley was for a long time embargoed. Late this spring restrictions were relaxed to allow some limited exports to Europe and still later all restrictions as to destination were lifted, making possible, in theory at least, exports to the United States. But, when the embargo was first lifted, extremely high equalization fees were charged for export permits. These began at a level of \$1.30 per bushel for barley and at 65 cents per bushel for oats, making these commodities extremely expensive to any country which imported them. Although the fees were gradually and steadily reduced during recent months they were, nevertheless, kept at such levels as usually to make prohibitive any exports to the United States. In theory the equalization fee should have been at such a level as to equalize the difference between prices prevailing in Canada and those in the United States. If exactly at such a level export business was theoretically possible. The existence of the fee, however, added another hazard to the export business, and exporters had to cope not only with fluctuations on the Canadian market and those in the United States, but also fluctuations in the amount of the export fee. Business was thereby made more difficult and hazardous and it was not surprising that very little was done. Even when, towards the end of July, the fees got down as low as 10 cents a bushel for oats and 21 cents per bushel for barley, there was little export and it may be found, when returns are all in, that total exports were much smaller than could have been safely made.

The primary purpose of the export permit fee, when first imposed, was to seize for the general benefit profits that might arise from buying oats and barley on the ceiling basis and reselling them in the United States at

a considerably higher level. Later these fees became an instrument for limiting exports and keeping in Canada enough feed grain to take care of Canadian needs as calculated. Another result, never officially proclaimed as an objective, was to regulate prices in Canada. The export fee had the result of keeping prices in this country much lower than they otherwise might have been and, for long periods, decidedly lower than would have been justified by prevailing prices in Canada for livestock.

It is quite possible that the export permits and fees will be done away with as soon as the new crop begins to move. Eastern Canada is expected to harvest a good crop of feed grains this year and there will not be the same urgent need there for supplies from the West. Until the crop is harvested no one can be sure just how large the available surplus for export will be, but, in all probability, an export market will be needed for both oats and barley.

Grain Storage Rates

At a tariff hearing by the Board of Grain Commissioners on July 20 representations were made by all elevator companies for some increases in the tariff rates for elevation and storage of grain in country and terminal elevators. Uniform charges were suggested by all concerned and briefs were filed by the three Pool Elevator Companies, by the North-West Line Elevators Association, by the Terminal Elevators Association and by United Grain Growers Limited. One of the changes suggested was altering the storage rate of one-thirtieth of a cent per bushel per day, which was first put into effect when elevators were originally established in western Canada, to one-twenty-fifth of one cent. In that connection it is interesting to note that storage charges are, for the most part, paid by the purchasers, not by the producers of grain, and the following may be quoted from the brief filed by United Grain Growers Limited:

"Several times in the past we have called your attention to the extent to which storage costs are borne by the purchaser instead of the producer of grain, and the consequent fact that it is to the interest of producers that elevator companies should derive reasonable storage revenues and thus increase their ability to handle grain on comparatively small margins. It is a well-known economic principle that many costs arising as between the producer's point of delivery and the point of final consumption of a commodity tend to be divided as between producer and consumer and that the incidence of an increased cost may be very largely against the consumer. There is an excellent example of that principle in the present water freight rate on grains and the fact that no one supposes that a reduction in ocean freight rates from present high levels will add to the income of wheat producers rather than tending to make wheat cheaper in consuming countries. As a further example, there may be quoted from Paragraph 1, Article VI of the International Wheat Agreement, the following sentence:

"The basic minimum and maximum prices, and the equivalent thereof hereafter referred to, shall exclude such carrying charges and marketing costs as may be agreed between the buyer and seller."

"It is entirely proper to take into account that the grain storage facilities of Canada, in providing a service for which the rest of the world is glad to pay, add appreciably to the national income of the country."

Government Payment On Oats And Barley

Cheques are now being made out by The Canadian Wheat Board, and will shortly be distributed through country elevators to all farmers, for the payment to be made by the government to western farmers who sold oats and barley between August 1, 1947, and October 21. At that time ceilings were removed from the prices of these grains and a considerable rise took place. Farmers who had sold oats and barley prior to October 21 naturally felt that they had been put at a disadvantage through failure of the government to remove the price ceilings earlier, either at the beginning of the crop year on August 1 or on September 12 when practically all other ceilings were abandoned. From the start members of the government recognized some government responsibility in this connection. There was delay, however, in announcing what the government would do until various companies operating country elevators had made adjusting payments to their own customers. Such payments were made by the companies from "fortunate" profits arising from unsold oats and barley which they had on hand at October 21 and the sale of which after that date was made on the basis of prices considerably higher than those which had prevailed under ceilings. The government payment is at the rate of six cents per bushel on oats and 11 cents a bushel on barley, to a total estimated at about eight million dollars. Payments made by most companies were considerably higher and the total amount distributed in the combined payments by the government and by elevator companies will be in the neighborhood of ten million dollars.

During the closing days of the recent parliamentary session various members of parliament called attention to the fact that no appropriation of funds was being made to provide for such a payment. Indeed, some members hinted that if such a payment were to be made it might come out of funds in the hands of The Canadian Wheat Board, such as the Oats and Barley Equalization Fund, which, normally, would be distributed among all farmers. Any temporary use of those funds for such a purpose would, of course, result in a subsequent demand that later appropriation should be made by parliament so that the cost of such a payment would rest upon the government treasury. The situation will probably not be clarified until the next session of parliament, when it will undoubtedly come up for discussion.

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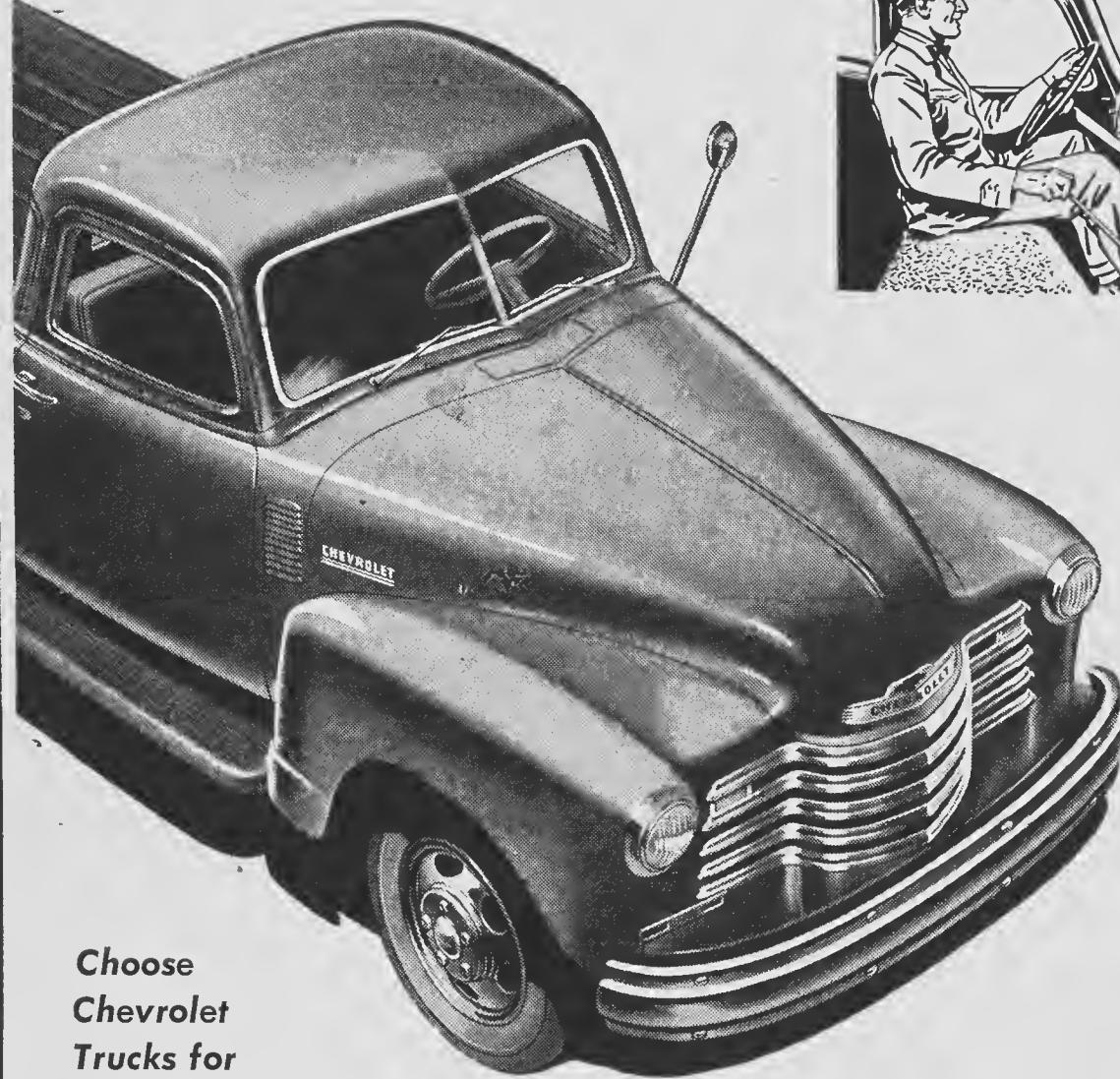
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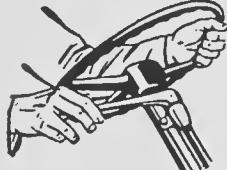
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THE MATADOR

CO-OP FARM

Continued from page 9

The co-operating vets have shown commendable foresight in laying out their farm site. Their land has on it a P.F.R.A. dam capable of providing a domestic water supply and for irrigating 100 acres. The buildings have been erected in a horseshoe on an irrigable spot a quarter of a mile away. In time to come the centre of that horseshoe will be transformed by planting and ditch water into a beautiful park.

ONE of their first acts was to buy a large building from a nearby air force training centre. This was dismantled and hauled to the Matador site and out of the salvage all the structures on the farm have come. Among the first to be built was the dormitory for single men and the workshop. After that came houses for the families. The community started with only four married men. But the average age of the group at the time of incorporation was only 29 years and bachelors of that age have a relatively low power of resistance. Since that time four more of them have married. The dormitory is kept by two women hired from outside. It is rumored that bachelors who are in the contemplative stage arrange to have their potential wives work in the dormitory where the men concerned can observe their dispositions under the stress of domestic responsibility.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this arrangement for selecting wives, but this much is true. As soon as a bachelor takes the plunge another cottage is added to the horseshoe. The happy couple draw the floor plan, limited by agreement to 900 square feet floor space. The Co-op carpenter and his helpers do the rest. To their credit it should be added that none of these attractive little houses has cost over \$2,600, not including plumbing and electricity. The occupants pay, not rent, but depreciation, and a portion of the fire insurance. The house remains the property of the co-operative.

Like a hive of bees, the Matador community has the unchallengeable right to expel any member declared undesirable by a two-thirds vote of the general meeting. Because of the manner of selection of this group, and the probationary period before incorporation, this right of expulsion has never had to be exercised. Two members have withdrawn, one of them to re-enlist in the army. Both these men were paid cash in full for their equity, as required by the articles of incorporation. They were replaced by other vets eager to come in. The boys on the Matador do not favor expansion, nor do they anticipate any further withdrawals.

"WHY," some private enterprisers will ask, "does this settlement of first class land have to be done cooperatively? What benefit has been obtained by these veterans in exchange for their surrender of control over their own capital? What's wrong with the old-time custom of every man for himself?"

No person familiar with the capital investment on a three-quarter section grain farm, and aware of the limits

of a veteran's purse, asks that question. Many a farm-minded veteran, dependant on his own resources, buys a small piece of land, builds a shack, buys a modern tractor and, if he is exceptionally well heeled, a minimum list of implements. From then on he begins to worry about unforeseen contingencies.

Making a start under such circumstances, a veteran is debarred from the advantages of large-scale production from the very first. When the big outfit on the Matador chugs past with its attendant train of implements, you have seen \$10,000 go by. Besides that the vets have four smaller tractors to provide the necessary flexibility of power. In the first month on the place they had cracked in a half section of flax, which provided seed for 1947, plus some for cash sale. By freeze-up of the first year they had broken 2,600 acres besides the necessary work around the building site, the dam, and the multifarious tasks that go with founding a farm.

The following year demonstrated the value of reserve capital. A hail storm swept the Matador causing 72 per cent crop loss on which the veterans eventually collected \$15 an acre. As this is written, less than 30 months after the first sod was broken, 4,350 acres of crop, nearly two-thirds wheat, one-third flax, and a small acreage of oats are ripening precariously under the scorching Saskatchewan sun. Given a normal growing season this enterprise has already reached financial self-sufficiency.

The Matador veterans realize that for them a pooling of their resources was the only answer. The day has gone for good when a settler with a team of horses, a pair of strong arms and a few hundred dollars can reach a competence in his own lifetime. The days of five dollar an acre machinery capitalization went out with the coming of the combine. On the dry plains, at least, this generation has to think in wider terms than the soldier settler of the first war.

If co-operative farming cannot provide the answer for men with limited capital, corporation farming and tenantry will multiply on these plains when the present generation of owners passes away. Probably some of the men content to be in the Matador Co-op would have preferred a completely equipped farm of their own. But they know that on their own resources it could not be done.

CO-OPERATIVE farming has provided these vets with a better division of labor. On the day of my visit five men were doing all the field work. The night shift would take as many more. But well-equipped power farmers, who make any pretense at maintaining pleasant living surroundings, will tell you that they spend as much time doing chores as they do on the land. The garden and livestock at the Matador are not the care of men fagged with a day's labor on the land.

Co-operation brings to these men the benefits of specialization. Their own machine shop, adequately equipped and competently staffed, keeps the wheels turning. Bill Zazelenchuk, secretary-treasurer, who foresook an office job to become an air frame mechanic, has returned to the work he formerly loathed, but in which he has a new interest, now that he is

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part owner. Because of Bill, these vets will not have to wrestle with the Income Tax collector in the way that some private farm owners have to do.

The strongest argument for co-operative farming is on the social and recreational side. In a country where farm families must of necessity average less than one to the square mile, social activities must be severely restricted. The first Mormon settlers in southern Alberta knew something about that.

The Matador vets have followed their example. They have a baseball team and on Mondays the night shift does not go on till the ball game is over. The whole community has become an adult study group which has drawn heavily on the provincial university. The living room of the dormitory has become a social centre for both sexes. "Strangely enough," remarked Bill Tone, erstwhile tank chauffeur for the Sherbrooke Fusiliers, "when we first came together the talk used to be all service. You never hear it now." Their minds are occupied by something more important than reminiscence, and the well-worn round of small talk.

THE veteran who at present holds the elected position of leader is Lorne Dietrick, an ex-sailor with a fine capacity for reconciling divergent views. Dietrick admits that many people whose minds are pained by new ideas, accuse his group of communism, an accusation which his vets treat with the contempt it deserves. Somewhere these critics have heard of the Kolkhozy, or co-operative farms established by the Communists in Russia, and they have not troubled to look for distinctions. To them the Matador farm is a Canadian Kolkhozy. That shallow criticism will die of neglect. After all it was mid-June in Saskatchewan and it was quite the fashion for groups of otherwise reasonable people to denounce their opponents passionately as Communists or in league with the Communists.

Despite the enthusiasm for co-operative farming that one encounters on the Matador, I believe that the extension of this form of organization will be slow because relatively few men are spiritually equipped for it. In any random group of 17 there are enough fair weather co-operators to wreck an enterprise when ill fortune strikes or counsels differ. The men concerned in this case had learned discipline. They knew the importance of loyally supporting an agreed plan, even if it ran contrary to their own judgment. A common background kept them together until they had learned the technique of democratic control. The tolerance engendered by barrack life had worn off the rough edges of personality before they were rolled around in the same barrel. "It is remarkable," one of them admitted confidentially, "how things which look terribly important to you, seem to lose their importance when they are threshed out in a general meeting and turned down." Unswerving co-operation is a hard row for those who are blinded by the brilliance of their own unaided judgment.

Because the men on the Matador possess the unique combination of character and temper required by their articles of faith, I risk the prophecy that their enterprise will succeed.

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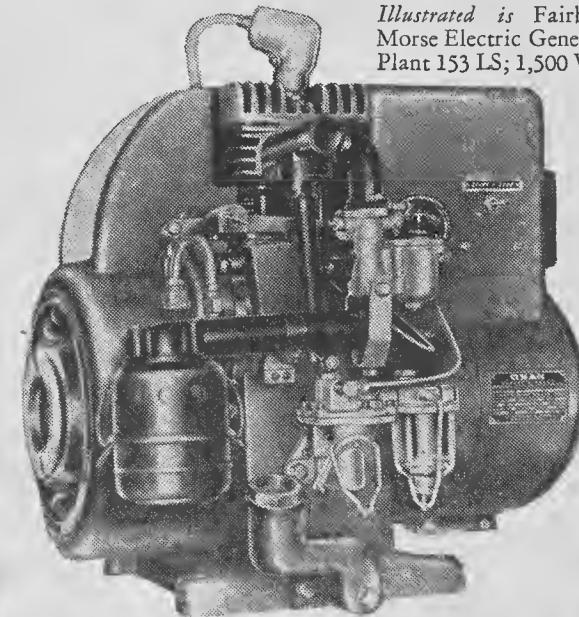
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The Crow Bomb

A weapon for the migrating season

by KERRY WOOD

THE crow bomb is a fiendish contraption invented for the laudable purpose of destroying crows.

We've all definitely decided that the crow is a bad bird. For a while a few western farmers were rather inclined to speak kindly of Blackie because of the crow's fondness for cutworms and grasshoppers. But we cannot ignore the crow's hungry appetite for the eggs of much more useful birds-game birds, insectivorous birds, and domestic poultry. In addition to egg destruction, corn growers in the States and certain parts of eastern Canada complain bitterly about the 35 per cent of the total crow diet that consists of corn and other grain crops. So the consensus of opinion is that the crow is bad.

But how can we reduce the numbers of such a wily bird? During the past 40 years and longer, our governments and farm municipalities have been paying bounty money on crow eggs collected by farm boys—but Blackie has continued to caw from the far trees and simply built new nests in more cleverly hidden locations and continued to thrive. Bounties paid on crow feet were a better investment, but anyone who has hunted crows will tell you that the birds are exceedingly cagey. It is a specialist's job, hunting crows, and the total number of birds destroyed by gunners is much too small to be considered an adequate control system.

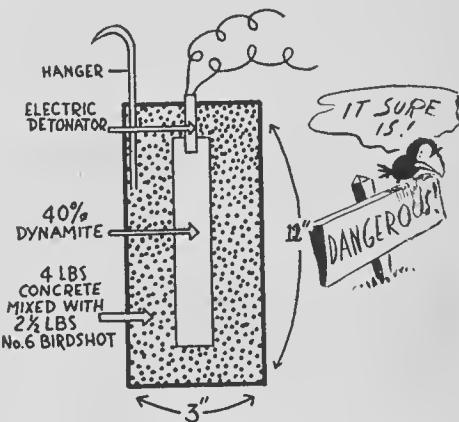
Hence the continued use of crow traps and other crow eradicators, until finally someone thought up the crow bomb.

THE idea originated when crow control men began to look for Blackie's Achilles-heel. Crows always congregate in very large numbers during the fall migration period and while spending the winter season in the central and eastern States. The birds are creatures of habit, and year after year patronize the same favorite roost area. In Canada, during August and September, we often see flocks of several hundred crows pitch into a favorite copse of poplars, balsams, or spruce and spend the night there, the birds densely packed into a comparatively small tree-branch area. A flock may go to the same roost night after night for a whole week, while migrating leisurely through Canadian territory. But in their wintering territories in the States, as many as 40 to 50 thousand crows go nightly to the same roost, night after night throughout the winter season. At such concentration points hunters like to hold group crow-shoots, but the gunners have only been able to kill a comparatively small number of crows until the advent of the crow bomb. It is the crow bomb which accounts for the reduced numbers of crows returning to our Canadian fields of late years; the bomb is reducing the crow to controllable numbers.

The bomb is a simple device, as the accompanying picture will reveal. A stick of stump-blasting dynamite is the core, with detonator cap attached

and long wires trailing away from this cap. An old stove-pipe or piece of eavestroughing or any other cylinder of tin is used to act as a mold-form. Each stick of dynamite is surrounded by a mixture consisting of approximately four pounds of fine gravel concrete into which has been stirred about two and one-half pounds of No. 6 chilled shot or bird-shot. A bent piece of wire may be jammed into the wet concrete to act as a hanger, by which the bomb may be hooked onto a tree branch. Allow the bomb to set for a couple of days, then remove the tin mold frame and the bomb is ready to use.

The crow-killing range of each bomb is a radius of 30 feet around the bomb, so the user has to estimate the total footage of the crow roost to be bombed and thus decide on how many crow bombs are required to saturate the area. Bombs are hung on tree branches two-thirds the height of the trees, and the bombs must be placed during the daytime in the crow roost while there are no birds in the



The Crow Bomb

vicinity. All the detonating wires are then joined to a pair of control wires which lead to the discharging battery, which is placed a safe 50 yards away from the nearest bomb and situated so that the operator can be screened behind a protective screen of trees, boards, or rocks. At evening the crows will start to dribble in to the roost in twos and threes and dozens and scores until finally, just at dusk, the roost is fully occupied. That's when the bomb hookup is exploded, the flying particles of gravel and bird-shot doing deadly havoc to the roosting crows.

THE number of birds destroyed by a bomb-blast depends upon the size of the roost and the density of the roosting birds. In one roost patronized by thousands of crows wintering in the State of Oklahoma, for example, 20,000 birds were killed by one bomb hook-up. Thousands are bombed in Illinois, the state that pioneered the crow bomb notion. Here in western Canada, crow roosts populated by more than 500 individual crows are rare, but if an appropriate number of bombs are used to effectively saturate the roost area, then a mortality rate of two-thirds of the crows in the roost may be obtained.

The cost of this type of crow extermination is extremely low, only a tiny fraction of the cost of the

ineffectual egg-bounty campaigns. Each crow bomb costs about 75 cents—the price depending on the retail price of the stumping dynamite and bird-shot in your locality. Permission must be obtained from the police to buy dynamite, and permission must also be obtained from the owner of the tree copse where the crows may be roosting, because the bomb explosion will do some slight harm to the trees. Remember to take all possible safety precautions, should you decide to try out the crow bomb in your district. Dynamite is always dangerous, and only responsible adults should take part in the program, with juveniles barred from the crow-roost vicinity. Do not hook up the detonator wires to the battery until ready to discharge the bombs, and first make sure that every human being is well screened from the flying particles of the bomb blast. A lone operator is safer than a group, as a rule; and, because of the suspicious nature of crows, one man can operate a crow bomb hook-up more effectively than a group.

SO far as the writer knows now, no one has ever thought of using the crow bomb hook-up to exterminate starlings. The writer believes that roost bombing could be an inexpensive and effective method of reducing the great numbers of European starlings now in Canada. Starlings have

spread to many parts of western Canada during the last three or four years. These birds are also communal roosters during the winter season, when they destroy valuable stands of trees by over-fertilization of the ground underneath the community roosts.

When starlings feed on insect fare a great deal, the good that they do in this respect is cancelled out by their filthy habits around our homes, barns, and city buildings. Starlings do not hesitate to oust our beloved box-nesting birds like martins and bluebirds. They defile our eavestroughing and roofs, our barn lofts and decorative cornices on public buildings. Starlings do terrific damage to certain orchard crops, notably cherries, and they have been known to flock-visit stooked or swathed or granary-stored cereal crops and create considerable havoc at such times.

When we finally become fully aroused by starling damage to want to reduce this evil bird's numbers, then we may find that the roost-bomb system may be our quickest and most effective method of eradicating this imported bird pest.

(The illustration and facts for this article were taken from a chapter in the author's recent book: *A Nature Guide for Farmers*, published by The Larson Publishing Company, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.)

Kept Winter Road Open

A successful experiment in community activity

LAST winter after a series of blizzards had blocked all other roads including highways in the vicinity of Star City, there remained one road open for wheeling. This was the range line which extends 12 miles south of town. Adjoining side roads were also open at intervals.

In March, 1946, a group of farmers along this road met in the Municipal Office at Star City and formed an organization known as the Good Roads Association, with R. J. Greaves as chairman, J. Kirkland as secretary-treasurer, and a committee of three to act as directors and collect maintenance fees.

The Association then purchased a 10-foot V snowplow for \$1,000, the power for which is supplied by a D4 Caterpillar owned and operated by Frank Kolb. Each member bought one share in the new plow for \$25.00. The operator plows for the Association at the rate of \$3.00 an hour and at \$5.00 an hour for non-members, \$1.00 of which is paid in as rent to the organization.

At the start a levy of \$5.00 was made of each member to provide a maintenance fund and subsequent collections were taken in accordance with services rendered. For the winter 1946-1947 the individual maintenance cost was \$10.00. For 1947-1948 the cost rose to \$30.00. The reason for the increase was the plowing season was twice as long as during the previous winter and conditions more unfavorable.

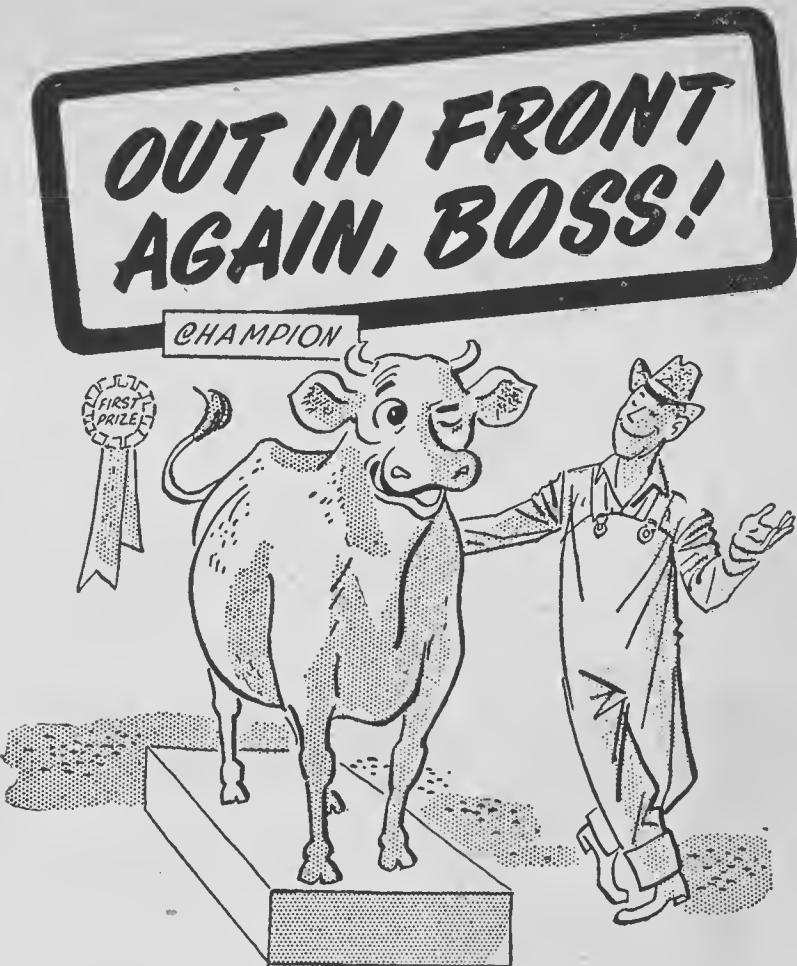
At first several who attended the meeting and many who did not, were skeptical and voiced grave doubts as

to the feasibility of such a venture and as a result shareholders had to be solicited, some of whom were several miles off the range line. This situation, however, quickly changed and today the Association has 54 members, more than it can well accommodate. It is likely a division will be made for the coming season and one or more smaller plows used for the lighter work.

MEMBERS of the Association are generally well satisfied and feel that being able to motor to town almost any day in winter is well worth the cost. Furthermore they understand that under normal conditions the cost would be less and better service could be provided. There were over 100 inches of snow on the level in these parts last winter and frequent high winds.

The success of the Good Roads Association is due mainly to the co-operation of its members and to Frank Kolb's perseverance in keeping snow traps open on each side of the road. Teamsters have expressed pleasure in driving on the snowplowed roads and some have made cash contributions as have many of the business men in Star City because they realize open roads are conducive to better trade.

Rural living is more attractive when wheeling is possible. It is gratifying to be able to drive to town to attend church, patronize a bazaar or see a hockey match or picture show and above all to know that in case of sickness the doctor can be reached in comparatively short time. — Sylvia Broeckel.



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FALL PLANTING

Continued from page 8

The largest class of plants is that called "in-between" — those subjects which are suitable to either spring or fall planting. For the latter season it is absolutely necessary that the soil be mellow with ample moisture. The roots are trimmed neatly with a sharp knife and protected with wet burlap or watered hay so that they do not become dry. Exposure to sun and wind for a few minutes will seriously injure the rootlets, and may harm the roots to the point where they fail to grow. A large, roomy hole is dug, the roots spread out comfortably with the strongest pointed westward as support against prevailing winds, and mellow top-soil wedged firmly against the various roots with the back of the planter's heel. If the tree be tall, it may require support by burlap hammocks fastened to three rigid stakes. In most locations benefit will come from mixing a gallon or two of granulated acid peat or shredded sphagnum moss with the top soil used in filling in the hole. It is a sponge to hold water and aids root development.

In late October or early November, before freeze-up, it is helpful to mound the transplant up with a cone of soil to a height of six to 12 inches. This is a root protection for winter and strengthens the top against winds. Next spring the soil is tilled back level.

PLANTS which have their tops wither down in summer are moved to advantage as soon as the leaves turn brown. While the leaves remain green they are still manufacturing food which is stored in the fleshy roots, bulbs, tubers or rhizomes to provide power for lusty growth next spring. Faulty pruning, careless cultivation, attacks from insects or diseases are to be avoided, because any loss of leaves lessens food storage and weakens the plant. To prove winter-hardy and thrifty next year, the plant needs to be well fed by a full corps of leaves. A common example of the importance of summer leaves is found in the rhubarb plant. If stalks are harvested after the end of June the fleshy root is prevented storing up sufficient food supplies through shortage of leaves, and the following spring the impoverished plant will probably produce chiefly flower stalks.

Grape hyacinth, scillas, tulips, fritillarias and lilies are for autumn planting. Relatively early planting ensures an extensive root system before winter takes command. Late planting calls for a mulch of slough hay, straw, corn stalks, evergreen boughs, or some other loose materials which protect against alternate freezing and thawing in early spring. One writer words it — "The protection for winter should be more like a parasol than an overcoat." A close-fitting mulch such as oak leaves may pack down flat and smother. Leaves on top of brush or corn stalks are safe.

Soil should be well-drained, in good heart but not recently manured. Acid peat can be applied with advantage. A well-prepared deep loam is excellent. Heavy or light soils are improved by an addition of leaf mould, acid peat or black loam. Bone-meal or superphosphate applied at the rate of five to 10 pounds to a hundred square feet at planting time is approved. The fertilizer is mixed with the soil in such

a manner as not to be concentrated against the bulbs.

It is well to have the soil worked 12 inches deep for tulips. Bone-meal worked into the soil under the bulbs is helpful. A layer of rotted stable manure may be placed three inches below the base of the bulbs. Plant in September if possible. The outer brown coat may either be left on or removed. Depth is with four to six inches of soil over the tip of the bulb. Large bulbs are set deep, small bulbs more shallow. Spacing is usually six to eight inches. A mulch applied in November may seldom be necessary, but adds comfort and lessens drying. Transplant when the patch becomes dense.

Siberian squills (Scilla) are hardy little bulbs which grow in shade or the open border. Their vivid blue is the earliest bloom in the plantation. Set in groups of a dozen or more, three to six inches apart and two or three inches deep in early September.

Grape hyacinth (Muscaria) is another blue subject that blooms early. Plant similarly to squills. Transplant when crowding occurs.

PLANT bearded iris in August, or before mid-September. If drainage is not free, set on mounds. Clumps should be divided every third to fifth year to maintain vigor and health. Crowded clumps give inferior flowers and are predisposed to root-rot and other diseases. To transplant fork up the clumps, divide into individual rhizomes (thickened underground stems). The plant is set so that the roots are spread out in deeply-dug pulverized soil and at a depth which permits from one-quarter to half of the rhizomes to protrude above the soil. Spacing is about 18 inches. Although optional, common practice is to clip back the sword-like leaves at a height of about five inches at planting. Iris like lime soils.

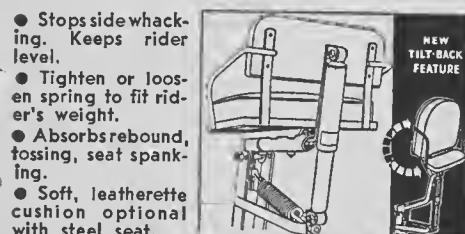
Lilies are important summer-flowering bulbs which are becoming more and more popular in prairie gardens. Friable garden loam is satisfactory to them. Heavy clay soils need addition of sharp sand and such humus as leaf mould, acid peat or old thoroughly rotted manure. Well-drained conditions are essential but moisture should be applied during dry spells in the growing season. All should be planted in late summer. September is preferred. Depth varies with the size of the bulb. Adhering roots are preserved and treated as are other transplants. It is helpful to mix a handful or two of acid peat with the soil at the bottom of the hole. The bulb is placed in a small pocket of sharp sand or fine gravel. This provides drainage, keeps the bulbs from contact with substances in the soil which might transmit rot organisms, and tends to repel worms. Light soils indicate deeper planting than clays. Suggested depths are for the top of the bulb—Amabile, six to eight inches; Candidum, two; Centifolium, eight; Ceruum, five; Davids, eight to ten; Stenographer lilies (Grace Marshall, Muriel Conde, Coronation, etc.), eight; Henry, eight to ten; Maxwill, five to six; Martagon, six; Pumilum (tenuifolium), four; Regal, eight to twelve; Superbum, (Turkscap), six; and Tigrinum (Tiger), six to eight inches. Large bulbs such as the Regal may benefit from being planted on their side, so that moisture will drain away from their scale segments.

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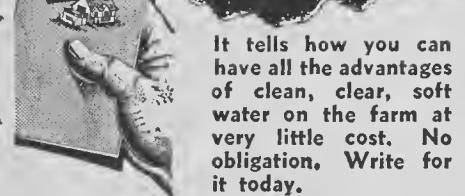
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Lily - of - the - valley are planted as clump-divisions in September or October at about six-inch spacing. They tolerate shade and thrive among ferns on northern exposures. They like a somewhat sandy soil carrying considerable humus. They may thrive for years in their spot. An occasional top-dressing of old manure heartens the plant.

PEONIES are planted in a sunny position in the fall from September 15, until freeze-up, but as soon after mid-September as possible. Late planting misses opportunity to generate new feeder roots which prepare the plant for immediate growth next spring. Place in fertile, well-drained soil that has been worked 18 inches deep. Rotted manure and some superphosphate is worked in the sub-soil, then top soil added and the root division set in this at a height to allow two inches of earth over the crown buds. The root division should have three to five eyes, or long buds. Larger divisions may have difficulty in establishment. Spacing of four feet is desirable. Later planted material should be accorded a straw mulch.

Oriental poppies should be planted as root cuttings or root divisions in August in fully sunned locations and preferably in clay loam that is well-drained. Water collecting around their crowns may soon be fatal. Plant before September in consideration of their early resumption of second growth.

TREES, shrubs and vines are safest planted on the open Canadian prairies in earliest spring while soil is moist and cool and before the evaporation rate is made rapid by hot weather. However, as autumn planting is likely to be convenient for the gardener, comment based on local observation follows.

Spruce move very successfully in mid-August. Dig with a generous ball of earth and hold it tight with burlap. Set at about the same depth as the plant was formerly. Tramp in firmly. Water generously.

Fruit trees of one and two years of age and many young shrubs and ornamental trees may be transplanted with success in early autumn. The second week of September is preferable so that roots have time to grow and anchor the plant before winter. Strip all leaves off before digging. Set in large holes, with roots spread out comfortably, and not bent to fit the hole.

Roses are adapted to fall planting. Mound with a cone of earth eight inches high before freeze-up.

Raspberry, gooseberry and currant plants give pleasing results when transplanted the second week of September and kept moist.

Rhubarb moves well in September as root divisions. Apply manure mulch in late October.

Buying nursery stock in October for spring planting is good practice. The gardener then orders from a full stock, has the desired plants on hand for April planting and is able to form planting plans with assurance. The stock is "heeled-in" a trench sloping at 45 degrees angle or flatter and at a depth of at least a foot of soil over the roots. Plants are given comfortable room, one layer thick, packed with pulverized soil and thoroughly watered. At least half way up on the stems soil is shovelled. The location should be sheltered.

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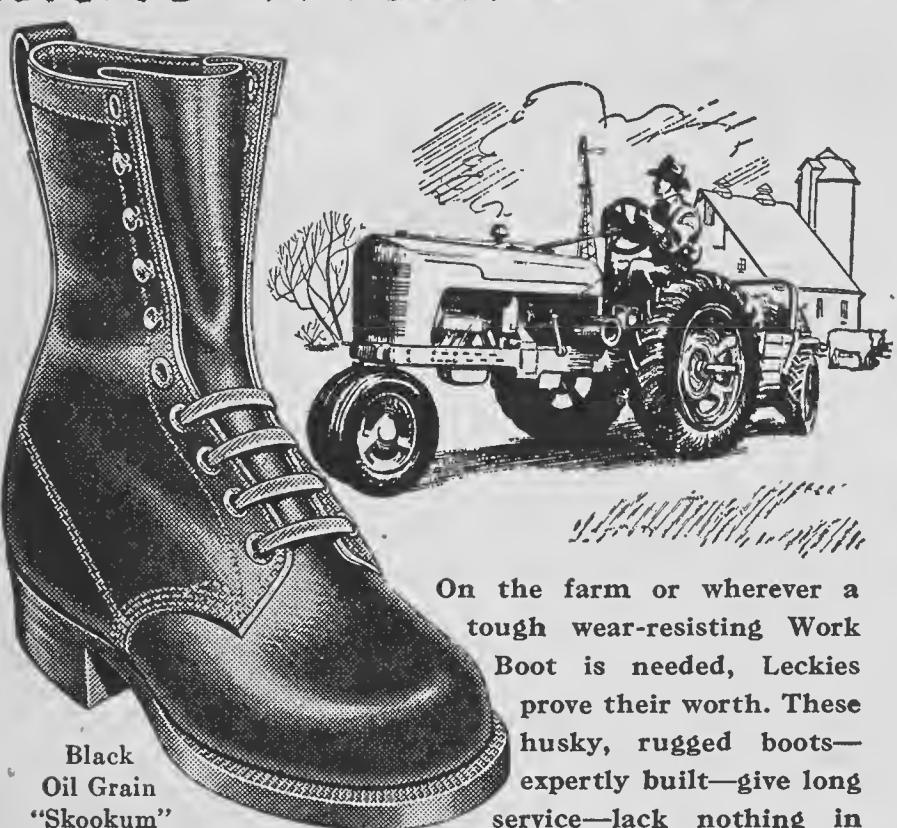
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HORSE CRAZY

Continued from page 11

"I think the Lady's the prettiest one I ever saw," she'd say. "Just wait until the little guy shows up."

"If he's got the right coloring he's worth a thousand the minute he stands and sucks . . ."

Tom got up and strode out of the room. Julie didn't notice. He said goodnight to Dad and started home. I walked with him a ways.

"Look, Tom, don't pay any attention to Julie, you and me are still pals, aren't we?" I was getting embarrassed.

Tom didn't seem to hear me. "Palomino! Palomino! Palomino! I hate the sound of the word," he roared. "Let a colt turn out yellow with a cream mane and tail and he's worth a thousand. Let him throw back to some old percheron in his ancestry and he's just unfortunate. What a way to judge a piece of horseflesh."

I was having a hard time keeping up with his long strides, but he wasn't through blowing off yet.

"Let a guy have black hair with a cowlick in it," he went on savagely, "and a Stetson hat, and he's worth a dozen fellows sweating out their lives at a job that takes backbone. What a way to judge a man!"

SUNDAY afternoon I tried to get Larry to take the twenty-two and come shooting crows with me, so if Tom came along they wouldn't get in each other's hair. But it was no use. By the time Tom got there Larry and Julie were riding up the road together, and before they came back Tom had passed the time of day with the folks and pulled out again. After that he stopped coming over.

Julie looked pretty sober for a day or two. I guess she missed Tom. He'd been coming over so regular I suppose it made her feel sort of free when he stopped.

One evening Ma sent me out to the hayloft to see if the clucker hen was hiding her eggs there. While I was there Julie came in from one of her long rides. Larry was fussing with the Lady in the corral, and he came in to hang the saddle up for her.

Her hair was tangled with the wind tearing through it and her eyes were alive. When I got to the top of the ladder Larry had his arms around her and was tilting her chin up and looking at her.

Surprise kept me from making any noise. I knew what Julie'd do if she knew I was there, so I kept pretty quiet.

"I know where you've been riding to, little Julie," he said, kind of soft and low. "You rode way to the skyline and picked a couple of stars to wear in your eyes."

Creepers! How does a guy get that way?

Julie said, "Don't, Larry," but she held onto his hand and he went on talking. "Makes a guy wish he had something to offer you, Julie, but me, well I never did amount to much I guess. I never had a mother or a sister you know . . ."

And he'd told me about his Ma whaling him and his sister for running off when they were sent to weed the garden, to snare gophers and get a cent a piece for their tails.

"Jack!" Ma hollered from the doorway. "Come here, Jack!"

Julie broke away from Larry.

"There's Ma still up," she said. "I better go to the house."

After that Larry used to ride with Julie sometimes. Ma and Dad didn't like that much. They never said anything in front of me, but you could have been born yesterday and still see the trouble in their eyes. I figured if Julie wanted to make a sap of herself that was her funeral.

Well, I didn't mean to be lying in the bottom of the manger watching for mice the next time they came in from a ride, but I was. I heard Larry saying, "How about it, Julie? Are you going to ride along with me when I go?"

Julie sounded like she was crying a little when she said, "Larry, I guess I'd have to go to the moon with you if you asked me to, but how am I going to tell the folks. It's not that they don't like you, Larry, it's just that security means so much to them . . ."

"I know, Julie. They couldn't think too much of a guy that couldn't offer you anything but a Palomino colt for a wedding present."

LARRY rode into town Saturday night. We had all turned in before he came back, but I heard his horse's hooves in the gravel and looked out. He was carrying something, the moonlight glinted on it, and it appeared to be a large bottle. He rode out to the barn with it and must have hid it there, for he came to the house empty handed.

The next afternoon I went out to the slough to see if I could find some crows' nests. The first thing I knew here came the Lady, stomping at me, ears back and teeth bared as she nervously circled her newborn foal. It was still struggling to get up onto its wobbly little feet.

I didn't want to tangle with that mare just then. I shinned up the nearest tree that would hold my weight and stayed there. The Lady went back to nuzzling the foal. Pretty soon it staggered up and sucked.

I'd had a few doubts about the mare's being bred to Golden Prince, but the little fellow was Palomino alright, that is all but his tail. His mane was almost white, but his yellow tail exactly matched the deeper gold of his body.

Larry crashed through the trees, halter in hand just then. The mare pawed nervously, but he haltered her before she knew what had happened.

"So here's where you are," he told the Lady.

The colt went on with its meal and Larry looked it over with disappointment.

"Fine youngster alright, but a little dark in the wrong spots. Lucky I was ready for this."

I was about to slide down the tree when Larry tied the mare and started back toward the barn. That looked queer, so I decided to lie low and see what happened next. I thought maybe he was going to call Julie to see the colt. I hid in the buckbrush.

When Larry came back he was carrying the bottle that he had with him the night before. As the colt sucked, he worked the stuff into the dark little tail. When he had finished he scratched behind its ear and chuckled. "Well, now Baby, we'll have a horse of another color in the morning!" He slipped the halter off Lady and headed for the house.

I read the label on the empty bottle . . . "Peroxide."

Larry was up earlier than usual the next morning and by the time Julie had the porridge on he came in yelling as if he was really surprised, "Come on out Julie . . . Lady's got her colt and its a Palomino!"

Julie dropped everything and ran for the barn. When Ma came down the kitchen was full of smoke and she had to cook another pot full of porridge. Pa was in a bad mood because that made breakfast late and with Julie and Larry so wound up about the colt he couldn't expect much work to be done that day.

I felt sort of low myself, because now that the colt had come Larry would soon be riding off. Julie would be going with him, never finding out what sort of a guy he was until the dark hair showed up around the base of the little fellow's tail. Of course it was her own fault, but a fellow ought to look out for his own sister, shouldn't he?

I knew she'd never believe me if I told her what had happened. I spent most of the history period trying to figure out what to do.

JULIE was hoeing the garden when I got home from school. I grabbed a fist full of cookies and went out to help her. We finished the patch about

always knew Lorraine Kennedy used peroxide on that hair of hers, but the nerve of her ditching this bottle in our pasture. I suppose next she'll say she saw it here and that I use it! And her at our house this afternoon, sweet as syrup!"

"Was her hair bleached this afternoon?"

"No more than usual, but this is likely an old bottle."

"Label looks new."

"That's right, Sherlock. It only could have been here a day or so. The colt? Oh Jack, it couldn't have been that . . . it couldn't have!" But she was already looking in horror at the track of a man's heavy work shoe. At last she seemed to realize what had really happened.

"Oh Jack! How could I have been such a fool!" she gasped.

"I'd like to know that myself," I told her.

She took the empty bottle and jumped onto Heather.

"Where are you going with that bottle?" I hollered.

"I'm going to bust it over somebody's black curly head. You can get the cows yourself."

When I got in with the cows Larry and Dad and Julie were in the corral



"It's an electric horse blanket!"

five o'clock and she said, "Let's flip a penny to see who goes for the cows."

"Look, Julie, let's both go. I'll ride Cinder and you can take Heather."

"I smell a nigger in the woodpile," said Julie. "Why the sudden interest in me and horses?"

"Alright, if you don't want me to show you where's the biggest patch of wild strawberries I guess you ever saw . . ."

"Did you say strawberries? Lead on MacDuff!"

I knew there weren't any strawberries by that peroxide bottle, but I was counting on Julie being so busy seeing other things that she'd forget all about the strawberries. She did.

As we passed the slough she saw the tramped and matted grass, then the sharp impressions of the Lady's tracks and the little ones beside them, still firm in the damp ground. "Look, Jack, the colt must have been born here last night!"

"Yeah. Guess so. Let's look for those strawberries."

"I don't see any strawberries . . . for Pete's sake, what's this?" and she picked up the peroxide bottle.

"A fine thing!" she exploded, "I

yelling at each other and they were all pretty sore. Finally Larry gave notice that he was quitting and Dad said it would suit him fine if he left without notice. They settled up and Larry saddled the Lady and rode slowly off, the colt frisking behind.

I went over to tell Tom.

Julie's eyes were red. After supper she put on a frilly housedress and kept looking out of the window towards Tom's. He came over after a while with his hair slicked down and a clean shirt on.

It was nice to have him back. I wanted to ask him something about a magneto, so I went into the front room.

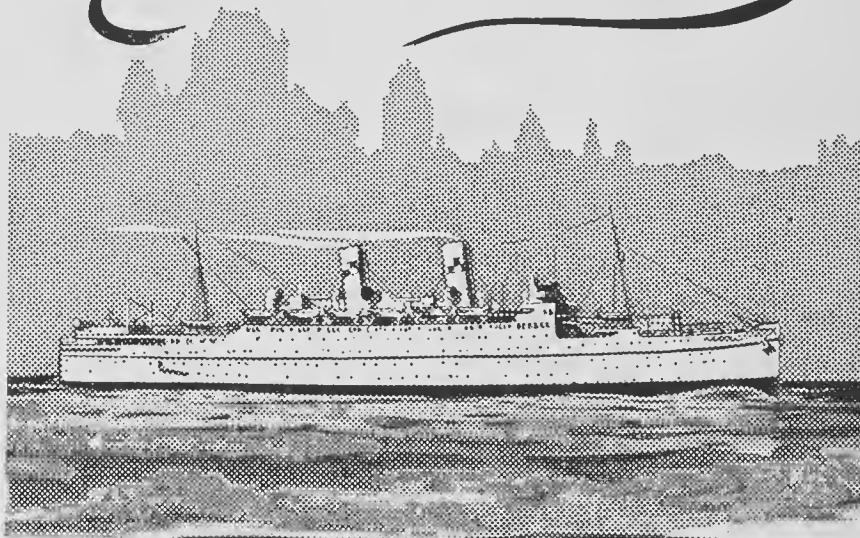
Julie was bawling against his shoulder, and he had an arm around her.

"Oh Tom, I've missed you so much," she sobbed.

"Well, don't cry, Honey, you aren't going to miss me any more." He saw me and released her abruptly. "Jack, remind me someday to ask you how you can be everywhere at once all the time."

Ma was already hollering at me to come and get a pail of water.

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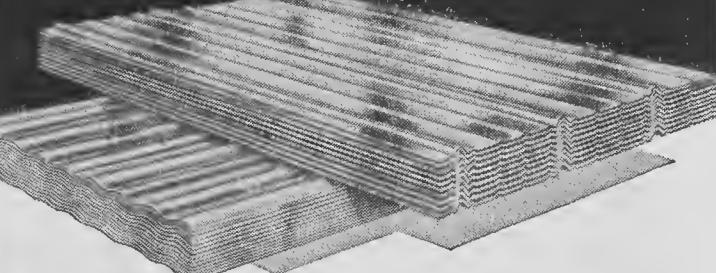
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Canadian Cattle Go To China

War depleted herd gets Fraser Valley reinforcements

by D. LAWTON

ON THE morning of June 16 three young men stepped onto a Vancouver dock after a 10,000 mile, two and one-half month ocean voyage that would be the envy of many a seasoned traveller. They were arriving back home after successfully delivering 107 head of Canadian purebred cattle to the Hong Kong Dairy Farm, Ice and Cold Storage Company in far-away Hong Kong, China.

It all began in March when Hay Brothers, livestock dealers of Vancouver, were notified that their bid to supply a reinforcement herd to the Hong Kong Dairy had been accepted in favor of similar bids from Australia and the United States. The order called for a few young bulls and about 100 first and second-calf heifers which would freshen within two months of purchase.

Under any circumstances this would have been quite an undertaking but this order had to be ready for shipment within three weeks to avoid the

crate which was picked up by the ship's crane and swung onto the deck. It took all one afternoon and the following morning to complete the loading, but that evening the "floating farm" up anchored, nosed its way under the Lion's Gate bridge, skirted Vancouver Island and began its westward voyage.

The hands selected to care for this expensive shipment were young in years but old in dairy cattle experience. Bill and Gordon Hay, 21 and 17 respectively, had worked around their dad's dairy since they were old enough to lead a calf. Frank Martens, the third member of the party, had been an employe of the dairy for almost four years. Bill, having made two previous trips to China with cattle shipments, was put in charge and was entirely responsible until the consignee's men came aboard in Kowloon harbor, just across the bay from the city of Hong Kong.

The cattle were not the only creatures to be well accommodated on this



Lifting one of the Hays shipment cattle overside. The end of one of the deck pens may be seen in the upper right hand corner.

excessive summer temperatures near the equator. The Hays, however, were equal to the occasion. The Fraser Valley was combed from one end to the other and gradually the herd began to grow. Although every animal was carefully inspected before purchase, it was tested for Bang's disease and tuberculosis and put on a specially prepared ration upon arrival in Vancouver. On the specified date the herd was ready—38 Holsteins, 38 Ayrshires, 22 Jerseys, four Guernseys and five bulls (two Holsteins, two Ayrshires and one Jersey).

While the animals were being purchased boat space had been chartered and arrangements made for the construction of sturdy, roofed pens. These were erected in two long rows fore and aft on the deck. Each pen, which was to hold four animals, was well bedded with straw and fitted with a large feed trough. The feed itself was stacked on the hatch covers, protected by heavy tarpaulins and lashed securely to the deck. Water was made available from storage tanks through long lines of ship's hose.

When all was ready the cattle were driven one at a time into a box-like

ship, the *Island Mail*. The "sea-going cowboys" each had a large private cabin, bathroom and shower. They ate in the officers' dining room and rated the food as "very good." Their one complaint was the rigid ship's order of wearing a collar and tie to all meals.

As the ship was traveling by the north-circular route the first two days were quite cool. The sea was calm and everything went according to schedule. However, on the third night things began to happen. A strong wind blew up and the ship's engines had to be stopped for 20 minutes for minor repairs. Immediately the ship began to wallow in the trough of the waves and water came crashing over the bows and ripping at the sides and roofs of the pens. Some of the canvas covering the feed was split and the outer sacks were soaked with spray. Although the ship was soon under way again the storm continued most of the night.

In the morning it was found that some of the cattle were standing in over a foot of water and that an Ayrshire calf, born during the night, had been trampled to death by its frightened mother. Most of the animals stood

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up well to the pummeling, but three of them later had to be treated for pneumonia. That day the wet feed was sorted out and fed before it had a chance to mold in the warm, damp air. The torn roofs were covered with spare tarpaulins, the pens rebedded and everything tidied up in a traditional "ship-shape" manner. The rest of the journey was more or less without incident.

As the ship neared the equator the cattle used less feed, but required much more water—up to 1,000 gallons a day. The original feed stacks of 13 tons of alfalfa, 18 tons of local hay, 20 tons of grain and 15 tons of straw gradually dwindled and seven more calves were born without further trouble. Once the cows had freshened the boys had the additional chore of milking to fit into their busy schedule, but the ship's crew were pleased to have fresh milk added to their menu. One of the first calf heifers that freshened early in the voyage was milking over 60 pounds a day by the time her new owners came aboard to claim her.

Sixteen days after leaving Vancouver the ship dropped anchor in Kowloon harbor and almost immediately the dairy farm men came aboard and began unloading. Once again the cattle were driven into crates and swung over the side, this time to the decks of small lighters. Each lighter loaded 25 or 30 animals and then was towed across the bay to land them on the beach bordering their new home. Coolies then took over and drove the animals up the hillside to one of the various barns where they were retested by the company's own veterinarian before joining the main herd.

The farm of the Hong Kong Dairy Company is located on Victoria Island about 10 miles outside the city of Hong Kong. It consists of over 500 acres of hillside land and has over 25 different barns connected by a pattern of paved roads. The barns, which are made of grey brick are separated to assist in the control of disease.

Most of the available land on the farm is seeded to a fast-growing native grass which is cut two or three times yearly. The hay is gathered into loose sheaves and carried by the coolies to stacks alongside each barn. The other feed used by the dairy consists of grain, usually imported from Australia or India, and a coconut meal cake.

The Hong Kong Dairy farm had almost 1,000 head of purebred cattle in their barns when the Japs took over the island in December, 1941. When it was re-possessed only 300 remained. The herd since then has been increased to 600 and will be further increased in the near future. At the

present time all milking is done by hand but by the end of 1948 the company plans to have every barn equipped with modern milking machines. Most of the milk produced by the dairy farm is sold in fluid form to stores and the company's own chain of restaurants and beach concessions. A half pint bottle of milk is now selling for 50 cents in Hong Kong dollars which is roughly equivalent to 10 cents in Canadian money at the present rate of exchange.

Having safely delivered their cargo, the Vancouver boys had a fine time taking in the sights of the busy Oriental port. Their stay was longer than expected too, as the *Java Mail* on which they had booked return passage was 10 days late. When finally they sailed on May 12 their first stop was Manila, and here they were again delayed—this time for nine days. In Manila they were much impressed by the war-damaged buildings, the wrecked ships in the harbor and the ex-jeep taxis, brightly painted and fitted with streamlined fenders.

The ship made other, but shorter, stops in the Philippines at Iloilo, Cebu and Davao, which is within eight degrees of the equator, before proceeding on to Kobe and Yokahama, Japan. Finally, on June 16 they arrived back in Vancouver, very glad to be home.

Although both Angus and Ken Hay were pleased with the success of their first postwar Oriental shipment, their wealth of experience must have been a great contributing factor. The brothers were born and raised on their father's big dairy farm near Lachute, Quebec. Angus graduated from McGill in 1920 and after a few years as livestock manager on the experimental farm near Fredericton, went to British Columbia as district agriculturist for the Kootenay district. In 1933 he went to Vancouver and shortly bought out the dairy branch of the B.C. Livestock Exchange. Ken Hay, who had graduated in animal husbandry from the University of British Columbia was traveling the fair circuit showing some prize cattle for the Wells Farms at Chilliwack. He returned to Vancouver in time to join in his brother's venture. Through a decade of ups and downs their dairy business was gradually expanded and the cattle dealing necessary to maintain a basic herd finally became a major enterprise in itself.

Both brothers are active supporters of junior farm clubs and livestock fairs, and have every confidence in the future of Canadian agriculture. As for the Orient, they believe that "prospects for future cattle business are very good, providing the rate of exchange does not become unfavorable."

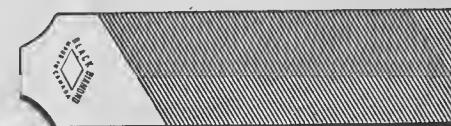


One of the 59 club bulls in the Athabasca area in 1947

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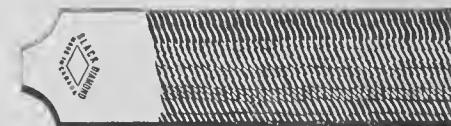
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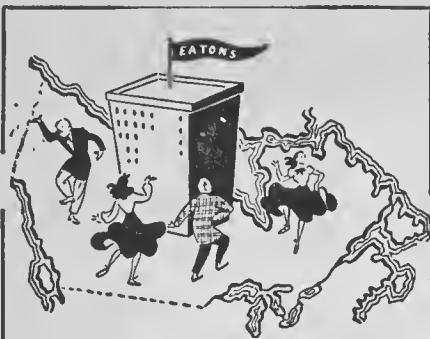
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RADIO BROADCASTING CONTROL

THE Canadian Association of Broadcasters, representing 89 independent broadcasting stations, hopes you will permit publication in your magazine of this letter—designed to correct major inaccuracies that unfortunately marred the article on radio by Mr. Hamilton Stuart (June, 1948).

1. Mr. Stuart quotes the chairman of the CBC's Board of Governors as authority for the statement that: "CBC's total advertising revenue hardly equalled the advertising revenue of one private station in Toronto." The chairman has never made any such statement, for it would be completely untrue. What he did say was that "advertising revenue from the CBC's own stations hardly equalled, etc.," a vastly different situation. This obviously did not include CBC's network advertising revenues, which are its most substantial source of commercial income.

2. When Mr. Stuart quotes income figures of broadcasting stations, he fails to point out that these are before taxes . . . a substantial item for independent broadcasting stations, which pay ordinary business taxes, plus *special transmitter fees* to CBC, in addition to local and provincial taxation. Such charges would substantially reduce the quoted "surpluses." Even ignoring these important facts, the surplus quoted by Mr. Stuart is certainly far from unreasonable for a total of 85 businesses. Nor was this revenue "taken out of the Canadian public," as Mr. Stuart puts it.

3. The stations concerned are faced with substantial investment in studios, equipment, transmitters, staff, and other expenses before their frequency is worth anything or offers any return. And the independent stations are dependent entirely upon their own efforts for income. They do not receive any part of the license fee on receiving sets.

4. Nor can we see that this point is really important. The fact that 85 of the approximately 110 independent stations in this country operated at a surplus of revenue above income is tribute to management skill. Surely it would not be helpful to operate these stations so sloppily that they were constantly in the red? It is from these "surpluses" that stations obtain the money for the important public services they render; public services which have drawn approval from many public bodies, organizations, political circles, and individual listeners. We have such tributes on file and are willing to submit copies to "The Country Guide" if requested.

5. Mr. Stuart's reference to this Association as "spreading propaganda designed to upset accepted policy," is unfortunate hyperbole. We believe this to be a free country, in which both ourselves and Mr. Stuart, amongst others, are entitled to express an opinion, even should that opinion happen to be at variance with that of others.

6. Mr. Stuart says of CBC "In physical establishment, in capital investment and organization, it is far outweighed and outnumbered and outfinanced by the private organiza-

tion." There is no single large independent organization in Canada. Mr. Stuart fails to realize that independent stations are almost entirely locally owned, locally operated; they are not like the CBC, part of a large national organization.

7. Moreover, CBC retains control of all high power channels and clear frequencies, writes and enforces the regulations, has access to all station records, controls station operation, and recommends upon granting, renewal or non-renewal of licenses for the independent stations.

8. The statement that independent radio is linked to "vast commercial and technical concerns in the United States" is simply not true. No independent station in Canada is so linked, in any way, shape or form. Network programs from the United States are brought into this country for network re-broadcast by CBC, not

In our June issue *The Guide* published an article on radio broadcasting control. It explained how the prevailing policy of CBC control came to be established, and why the farmers' national organization stood squarely behind it. This article reaches some conclusions, however, with which the operators of privately owned stations do not agree. T. J. Allard, manager of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, their national organization, summarizes their view on this page. At its conclusion *The Guide* publishes the answering remarks of Hamilton Stuart, author of the June *Guide* article.

the independent stations; the independent stations have no United States tie-up whatever.

9. Mr. Stuart's continued reference to the "necessities of commercial operation" ignores the fact that the CBC is a commercial operation. And his statement that independent stations do not employ Canadian talent, is again, simply not true. The independent stations of Canada have about 1,700 people on their full-time payrolls; their record of employing, discovering and developing Canadian talent is an exceptionally good one. A report on this was presented to, and won approval from, the 1946 Parliamentary Committee on Radio Broadcasting.

10. Mr. Stuart's reference to the New Ontario and Manitoba regions ignores the facts completely. Taking his reference as a guide: ". . . from the line of Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay westward and northward to a point about midway between the Manitoba border and Winnipeg" . . . we find there are no less than eight independent broadcasting stations, and no CBC station. In reference to this area, Mr. Stuart has said: "Such a region is hopeless as a commercial proposition, yet the national system must and does serve it." This is obviously completely untrue (and incidentally, again ignores the important fact that CBC is a commercial operation). In fact, it is the independent

station which brings radio to the isolated community in every part of Canada. It is the independent station which exists in Flin Flon, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek, North Battleford, and other remote areas.

11. Mr. Stuart has chosen to ignore the point that it is just because radio is "interested in news, in education, in religious broadcasts, in cultural things . . ." that this Association advocated a separate licensing and regulatory body for broadcasting in Canada, not identified with either our own member stations or CBC. Nor is the feeling for such a body any reflection upon, or quarrel with, CBC. It stems from the feeling that such important functions should be exercised by a body conducting business publicly and with the same freedom from possibility of executive (or other) interference now possessed by our courts.

And the same point—the fact that radio is concerned with things of the mind—emphasizes the necessity for the greatest possible degree of competition, freedom of choice, diversity of ownership, and local operation.

12. Mr. Stuart's point that "sponsors . . . will not waste money on a multiplicity of uneconomic private stations . . ." is completely inconsistent with his repeated references to the "necessities of commercial operation." The independent stations can, and do, command valuable, loyal listening audiences in their individual local areas. In open competition with CBC they have almost always maintained a lead in audience, and we have figures to demonstrate this, figures we should be happy to supply "The Country Guide" upon request.

This in part answers Mr. Stuart's remark that ". . . private radio . . . cannot serve all the listeners who wish to be served, and it cannot even serve a portion of the listeners as they wish to be served." The remaining part is covered by the point we have already established—that the outlying, remote, areas are almost entirely dependent upon independent stations for their radio broadcasting. In fact, the independent stations can and do, provide broadcasting service for almost all listeners in Canada—and command large audiences in the bargain.

We hope this statement of facts will not be misconstrued as an "attack" upon CBC, as is so often unfortunately done. It is not, and this Association agrees with some of the things Mr. Stuart has said about the national organization.

Our desire is only to keep straight the record insofar as it pertains to our own member stations. In the interests of accuracy, and of fairness, we hope you will bring these important corrections of fact to the attention of your readers.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd) T. J. Allard,
Manager.

Mr. Stuart's Reply

(1) The CBC chairman's actual words, at the opening meeting of the Parliamentary Radio Committee on May 19, 1947, were:

"CBC commercial revenues are small in relation to the size of the system as a broadcasting operation."

The total revenue from all CBC stations is probably little more than the revenue of one private station in Toronto."

There is no question about the meaning of this statement and it is borne out by the published figures of the Department of Transport.

(2) If in a statement of operating revenue to the Department of Transport the C.A.B. included "special transmitter fees to the CBC," then all we can say is that their bookkeeper must be a man of remarkably original ideas! In any case, there are no such fees. Not a penny of "special transmitter fees" is paid to the CBC by private stations. In fact, nothing is paid by private stations to the CBC in the form of fees. If the reference is to the station licenses paid to the Department of Transport, which are in the same class as any ordinary business license and are paid by CBC and private stations alike, then the C.A.B. is complaining of a fee to which every established business in Canada is subject. These licenses are on a graduated scale according to the power of the station and the density of population in its primary coverage area. A station of 1,000 watts in a density area of 25,000 to 50,000 might pay \$300 a year; a station of 15,000 watts in a density area of 500,000 might pay \$3,000. Average private stations in Canada would pay under \$500. Contrast this with their commercial revenues! It is likely that many of them take in \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year, if not more. Private broadcasting stations, in short, are recognized gold mines.

2 (a) The revenue was taken out of the Canadian public, and nowhere else.

(4) The huge surpluses made by C.A.B. stations are a tribute not to "management skill," but to altogether excessive advantages enjoyed in a part of the public domain. The "important public services" rendered by private stations are in the main mythical, as any listener can tell you. Such sustainers as they carry are largely CBC programs forced upon them by their network contracts, and carried grudgingly and unwillingly. Network people know that C.A.B. stations would sell time to the limit of possibility were they not restrained by CBC contracts.

(5) C.A.B. propaganda has been organized, violent, and persistently at variance with announced public policy.

(6) The private stations act as a unit, at the crack of the C.A.B. whip. They are a closely-knit thoroughly-organized unit for purposes of policy and propaganda.

(7) The letter says: "Moreover the CBC retains control of all high power channels and clear frequencies, writes and enforces the regulations, has access to all station records, controls station operation, and recommends upon granting renewal or non-renewal of licenses for the independent stations."

As parliament has willed, and for which the listeners may thank their lucky stars! But the CBC does not "write the regulations." They are set out in an act of parliament, the Broadcasting Act of 1936, as amended. The statement that the CBC "controls station operation" is also misleading in the extreme.

(8) Two private stations in Canada, CKAC, Montreal, and CFRB, Toronto (very prominent members of the C.A.B.) are stations, not of the CBC network, but of the Columbia Broadcasting System of the United States. That is the first point against this obviously untrue statement. But it is not so important as the second point; which is that through their transcription agency, All-Canada Radio Facilities, private stations in Canada are definitely linked with transcription agencies in the United States. In short, the lucrative advertising business flowing across the border is channelled to them through a closely co-ordinated organization, from the transcription-making agencies in the United States to the private Canadian station. The men who are the principal private station operators in western Canada began business as agents of U.S. transcription-making firms. They are still agents of those firms.

(9) The CBC has gone too far in commercial business, as my article frankly admits, but it has done so to a large extent in self-defence, to meet the competition of the C.A.B. which was trying to dislodge it wholly from the Canadian broadcasting field. Given the opportunity, I believe that the CBC will reduce and regulate its commercial activity to a minimum. But recollect that even the Aird Commission agreed that national network operation in Canada was so expensive that some commercial revenue was necessary.

(10) To what do the "no less than eight independent broadcasting stations" in the New Ontario-Manitoba region amount, and what are they bringing their listeners? They could bring them little of consequence did the CBC not maintain the long stretch of network lines across this barren area—an immensely expensive undertaking. I hope no one will be so unthinking as to accept the statement that "it is the independent station which brings radio to the isolated community in every part of Canada." This is brazen insincerity. The rural dwellers of western Canada can testify to what sort of radio service they would get if left to the tender mercies of private radio. But it is a good example of C.A.B. dialectic—obvious misstatement uttered with an air of specious confidence and authority.

(11) Such a "separate licensing and regulatory body" already exists in the Department of Transport and the parliament of Canada—the ultimate authority on broadcasting in the Dominion. There can be no better authority than parliament, and parliament is the only adequate authority in so large an undertaking, affecting nearly every Canadian home, and profoundly concerned with matters of education, culture, religion, and public affairs.

(12) Let the private stations produce a single program of their own individual creation which commands a good listening audience without give-aways, and we may give some serious attention to their claim to "valuable, loyal listening audiences." But the truth is that if they have consistent audiences at all, it is largely because of the CBC network programs they carry.

(Sgd.) Hamilton Stuart.

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EIGHT BELLS

Continued from page 10

Neilson went along the starboard gangway leading toward Mr. Ogden's stateroom. When he had reached a position sufficiently far forward to be beyond sight from the cabin windows he began a careful examination of the deck.

THE planking showed no foot prints and he apparently expected none; his eyes darted along the rail as though in search of something quite different.

Brass scuppers at regular intervals had been provided to allow rain or other water to escape from the decks. Just inside one of these oval metal openings lay a small pink patch, plastered against its mouth. A fragment of paper had stuck to the metal instead of being carried on through. Neilson thrust it into his pocket. Finding nothing else of interest along the narrow strip of deck, he went back to the cabin. Lewis Raskin was sitting at the table in the corner.

"Got a cigarette?" Neilson asked.

"Never use 'em!" Raskin bit the end from one of his host's cigars.

"How about you?" Neilson turned to Strawn.

The financial expert produced a leather case, extended it, with a frosty smile. Neilson took one of the cigarettes . . . a well-known English brand . . . lit it.

"Thanks," he said. "Now, sit down, everybody, and we'll get going!"

Congressman Hopper frowned. Having taken charge of the investigation originally, it annoyed him to be so summarily thrust aside. He did not, however, express his feelings in words. Lewis Raskin was less polite.

"I'm getting pretty tired of your attitude, young fellow!" he snarled. "Who gave you the right to question anybody? You may have killed Ogden yourself."

Kenneth Neilson straightened his shoulders; instead of being merely the Vesta's engineer he seemed all at once to assume the role of chief inquisitor.

"Sit down!" he said coldly. "All of you. And keep quiet. Now, Mr. Strawn"—he turned to the treasury expert—"tell me what you were doing outside Mr. Ogden's window at three minutes past four this morning?"

"What makes you think I was there?" Strawn blustered.

"I don't think . . . I know! The man I saw was so startled by my appearance that he dropped a cigarette. Of the same brand you're smoking now. I picked it up from the deck outside last night, still burning. Mr. Raskin doesn't use cigarettes."

Strawn sank feebly back into his chair.

"Well, suppose you're right," he admitted. "What of it?"

Neilson did not reply. Instead, he went to the table at which Congressman Hopper was sitting and took from it one of the manila envelopes . . . the one bearing Hugh Strawn's name.

"You realize, don't you," he said, "that Mr. Ogden may have been shot from the deck outside?"

"I was there!" exclaimed Strawn, aghast. "But I didn't shoot him!"

"How do we know? My sudden arrival no doubt scared you away . . .

prevented you from getting what you came for . . . out of his brief-case."

Strawn raised his hand.

"I can explain everything!" he said.

"Go ahead, then!" Neilson regarded him contemptuously. "And make it snappy."

"I'm not a murderer," Strawn muttered.

"Then what were you doing there, outside his window?"

"I came to get those papers! I thought I could take them out of his brief-case while he was asleep."

"You meant to steal them?"

"You can put it that way if you like. I don't consider it stealing, myself, to take your own property. The papers in that envelope belong to me."

"So he had some hold over you, too? What was it?"

The young financial expert shifted uneasily in his chair.

"For one thing," he said sulkily, "Mr. Ogden secured me the position I now hold with the government."

"Do you mean to say," Congressman Hopper asked, "that you accepted it under obligations to a lobbyist?"

"Ah!" the congressman said softly. "Yes, there would be, with Stephen Ogden."

"No good bothering you with a long story," Strawn said. "I'm the executor of my sister's estate. Recently Ogden offered me an investment . . . said he understood I was engaged, and thought a little extra money might come in handy. Some very big people were being given a chance to go into the thing. So I went in, too. What happened I don't know, but pretty soon there were calls for margins. When I couldn't meet them Ogden suggested using my sister's money to tide me over." Strawn gave a dismal groan.

"At our interview last night I went through the same experience as Miss Burt. You see, I'd had a hand in drawing that bill he wanted changed. He insisted I alter my office copy . . . my notes . . . to agree with his ideas. When I declined he said the order I'd given him to use my sister's securities for my personal account constituted a criminal breach of trust and he could put me in jail for it. Ruin me."

the deck to his cabin . . . looked in. I thought he was asleep. . . ."

"JUST a moment!" Congressman Hopper raised his hand. "You claim this was at twenty minutes to four? In spite of the fact that both Mrs. Baudouine and Mr. Neilson say they heard the shot much later?"

"I can't help that. I'm telling you what happened. Maybe Mr. Ogden was asleep when I saw him. Maybe he was murdered while he was sleeping. I only stopped a moment, gave him a hurried glance, returned to the after deck." The young man seemed to hesitate a little at this point but Neilson, although he noticed it, did not interrupt him.

"After I'd sat there a while," Strawn went on, "I got to thinking that if Ogden was asleep I might reach in and get the brief-case without waking him. Something I had seen during my first visit put the idea into my head. So I went back about four o'clock. I'm sure of the time, because I heard the ship's bell strike."

"As I reached for the brief-case I saw the mess on the table . . . realized that Ogden had been killed. Then I heard the door from the corridor open . . . jumped back out of sight."

"Did you touch the case?" asked Neilson quickly.

"Why . . . no. There wasn't time. I just . . . beat it."

"A very plausible story," Lewis Raskin muttered. "Only there's nothing to show that you didn't shoot Mr. Ogden around four o'clock, before this young fellow—he glanced at Neilson—"came down. And then ran away when you heard him entering the room. It all fits in, even to your denying you heard the shot."

"But I couldn't have done what you say," interrupted Strawn, "for the reason that Mr. Ogden was dead already."

"Too bad you can't prove it!" Raskin snapped.

"Maybe I can!"

"How?" Neilson's question lashed out like a whip.

"By the person I saw in Mr. Ogden's room on my first visit."

"You said nothing about anyone being there, before."

"I know it. But I did say I'd seen something that gave me the idea of coming back! Someone was in the room with him. Doing just what I planned to do . . . opening that case. So I thought I'd go away, wait a few minutes until the coast was clear and come back . . . as I did."

"Who was it you saw?" Neilson said.

"I don't know. I just caught a glimpse of her back."

"Her back? Then it was a woman?"

"Yes. She was just going through the door to the bathroom."

"Ah!" Congressman Hopper turned quickly. "So you were there earlier, Miss Burt! I thought so! Why not tell the truth and admit you killed him."

"But I didn't. I swear to you I didn't!"

"Just a moment!" Kenneth Neilson drew a small notebook from his pocket, detached an elastic band. A moment later he was holding a threadlike object in the light. "Here is a woman's hair. Congressman Hopper saw me remove it from the flap of Mr. Ogden's brief-case. Both you, Strawn, and Miss Burt, have testified that you did not open the case . . . did not touch



"Certainly not!" Strawn's voice quivered with indignation. "I never knew, until he told me last night, that he had anything to do with my appointment!"

"Well . . . well!" Lewis Raskin began to laugh. "I didn't suppose he was so strong with the administration."

"He wasn't. Men like Ogden don't run with any political party . . . they have friends on both sides. Ogden had plenty. People, important people, for whom he'd done favors, in business . . . in the market. When he learned that the government was looking for someone who had made a study of corporation finance, he had word passed along to a certain big gun, who recommended me for the place. I came to Washington under no obligations to him or anyone else."

AND then Ogden tried to use the fact that he had backed you to demand favors? Is that it?" Neilson asked. "Why couldn't you have told him to go to the devil?"

"I tried to!" Strawn's intelligent but rather weak face flushed. "Only . . . there was something else."

"I left, allowing him to believe I would do as he asked. Actually I'd have been glad to cut his throat. But I didn't shoot him. Anything else?"

"Yes. While you were in Mr. Ogden's room did you take a drink with him?"

"Drink?" Strawn laughed . . . a high-pitched, nervous laugh. "You don't take a drink with a man you'd like to choke!"

"I see. And what did you do after leaving Mr. Ogden?"

"Spent an hour in my stateroom doing some perfectly useless thinking. It was hot, so around two o'clock I went out to the after deck to get some air. Sat there, smoking, until the storm drove me inside. When the rain was over, around three, I went back again. It was much cooler on deck and I knew I couldn't do any sleeping. From where I sat I couldn't see Ogden's window . . . didn't know he was awake. After a while I got restless . . . went around to the other side of the boat. Then I saw the light . . . wondered why he was up so late. According to my watch it was twenty minutes to four. I crept along

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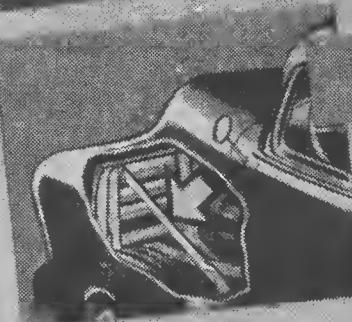
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it. If you had, the hair would have been dislodged. It is, as you can see, a blond hair. Miss Burt is a blonde."

"I suppose," Mrs. Baudouine remarked acidly, "that you mean me. Everybody knows I was in Mr. Ogden's room last night. At nine-thirty."

"After which," Neilson retorted, "Mr. Ogden was visited by several other persons, and opened and closed his brief-case a number of times. Under those circumstances it is impossible for the hair to have remained where I found it."

"Don't be absurd!" Mrs. Baudouine snapped. "It was probably caught in one of the straps."

"No!" Neilson gave her a long, penetrating look. "It was not caught in one of the straps. But there was something else on the flap of the brief-case that caught and held it."

"What, may I ask?"

"A small drop of half-congealed blood!"

JEAN BAUDOINE was a woman of decision; she knew when she was beaten. With a brittle laugh she snatched one of the envelopes from the table.

"Very well," she said, "I did go in there this morning! At half past three! To offer Mr. Ogden my price for some letters he had of mine! Letters involving a man very high in the government service. How Ogden got them I don't know. Earlier in the evening he threatened to send them to my husband if I did not use my influence with this man to help put through a certain bill."

"And you refused?" Neilson asked.

"No. I told him I'd do what I could but that this friend of mine wouldn't agree."

"Maybe I'm a coward. I don't know. But I went in this morning to make a last desperate appeal to Mr. Ogden. He was sitting at the table . . . dead. While I was trying to nerve myself to open the brief-case, recover my letters, I heard someone on the deck outside. So I ran back through the bathroom to my room. I suppose the person I heard was Mr. Strawn."

"I see," Kenneth Neilson's eyes were bright with anger. "You knew Mr. Ogden was dead at half past three, and yet you've been willing to let Miss Burt be accused of killing him, at four o'clock!"

"I'd have told the truth when the time came," Jean Baudouine said. "This is no court of law. All I've wanted to do from the beginning is destroy these letters."

Lewis Raskin broke into a satisfied chuckle.

"So Ogden was dead at half-past three, was he? That's fine!" He leaned toward the table. "That lets me out entirely. Now, young fellow, if you'll pass me my envelope . . ."

"Not yet!" Neilson snapped. "What lets you out?"

"Mrs. Baudouine's testimony! It gives me a cast-iron alibi, so far as Ogden's death is concerned!"

"Does it?" Kenneth Neilson's jaw shot out. "Well . . . maybe, but before we go into that suppose you tell me what you've done with the pistol you brought aboard."

The question came so suddenly that Raskin stood breathless.

"What makes you think I had a pistol?" he gasped.

"I saw it in your pocket when you

came up to the pilot house last night. You said you were hot, took off your coat. What's your reason for bumping Ogden off?"

"I didn't kill him!"

"Then why throw away the gun?"

"Who says I threw it away?"

"If you didn't, let's take a look at it!"

"Hell!" Raskin's florid face was twisted with wrath. "You think you're good, don't you? If you want to know, I chuck it overboard, while you and the congressman were examining the body. You can't pin this murder on me . . . I've got an alibi!"

"Let's have it," Neilson said, not pleasantly.

"All right. First, I was with Ogden from one to two . . . after the congressman here got through with him."

"Then you were the last person on the list . . . the last one to see him alive?"

"Don't go so fast, young fellow!" Raskin was making desperate efforts to control his temper. "The last person to see Ogden alive was the bird who killed him. He was all right when



"Maggie, what could I have said that makes you this way?"

I left him at two o'clock. Came to the door with me. This young fellow—he pointed a blunt forefinger at Strawn—"was in the hall and saw us."

"THAT'S true," the treasury expert agreed. "I was on my way to the deck to get some air, as I've told you before."

"At two o'clock I came up to the pilot house to see you," Raskin continued truculently. "Right?"

"Yes. By the way, did you take a drink with Mr. Ogden?"

"Sure. Two of them. Why?"

"You seemed rather red in the face . . . excited."

"Why wouldn't I be excited? That dirty crook had something on me, too, same as the rest. A matter of union labor, in a coal mine I own. Through dummy directors. I'm a friend of labor, in my newspapers, but you can't make money mining coal, with the closed shop. I won't stop to tell you about it . . . it's all there in the envelope . . . but he threatened to show me up if I refused to support this bill in my papers, so I had to agree."

"I stayed there with you in the pilot house, remember, till after the storm . . . three o'clock. When I went down to the lower hall I found Congressman Hopper saying good night to Ogden at his stateroom door."

"That is quite true," agreed the congressman. "Mr. Ogden had asked me to join him in his room, but I declined. Just then Mr. Raskin came along, and as I had some excellent

whisky in my cabin I invited him to share it."

"Right! And how long was I with you, Hopper?"

"About three-quarters of an hour. You left at twenty minutes to four."

"Then," Raskin burst out, "if Ogden was dead at three-thirty, as two reliable witnesses have already agreed, and I was with the congressman here until twenty minutes to four, how in hell . . . I beg your pardon, ladies . . . how could I have killed him? That's my alibi, young fellow! With Ogden from twelve to two! With you in the pilot house from two to three! And with Congressman Hopper, in his stateroom, from three until twenty minutes to four! Any holes in it?"

"No," Neilson replied carelessly. "It seems all right to me."

"Seems?" Raskin picked up the envelope that Neilson had dropped on the table. "It is! You'll never make a fortune as a Sherlock Holmes, young fellow!"

"Put that envelope where you got it!"

"What for? I'm all clear . . ."

"You'll put it back because I tell you to. Nobody's clear, yet! Get that?" He drew an automatic from his pocket, laid it on the table. "I'm the Vesta's captain, even if she is on the mud! As such I'm giving orders, from now on, and you people are taking them! Any objections?" He glanced defiantly about the room.

Congressman Hopper, although a quiet man, was a courageous one. He glanced at Neilson's automatic with a smile.

"The purpose of this investigation, as I understand it," he said, "is not to indulge in heroics, but to find out who murdered Stephen Ogden. Like the others here, I visited his stateroom last night . . ."

"Drink anything with him?" Neilson asked.

"No. Although I fail to see what bearing that has on the case. As a matter of fact, our interview was not a pleasant one. Mr. Ogden wanted my help about this bill . . . I happen to be chairman of the committee to which it would be referred . . . and offered me one hundred thousand dollars if I would wink at the changes, see that it was favorably reported . . ."

"Which offer," Neilson remarked quickly, "I suppose you declined."

Congressman Hopper took from the table the brown envelope bearing his name, drew out the only thing it contained . . . a slip of green paper.

"Since the check for the amount is still here, in his brief-case, the answer is obvious. Perhaps," the congressman went on, a faint smile creasing his austere features, "I was foolish, but I declined, even though Mr. Ogden offered to have the check cashed in such a way that it could not be traced, provided I would put my name on the back of it. He wanted that, to have me completely in his power."

"I left him," the congressman continued, "at one o'clock. I did not see him again until three, when he called me across the hall, urged me to reconsider my decision. This I declined to do . . . I went as far as his door, told him so; we were saying good night when Mr. Raskin appeared."

"Right!" the latter said again. "I heard you. Then we went in your room and had some drinks."

"Exactly. At three o'clock. And at three-thirty Mr. Ogden was

dead. Who could have killed him during that half-hour? Not Mr. Raskin or myself, certainly, since we were in my stateroom together. The stories these two ladies and Mr. Strawn have told bear the earmarks of truth. Yet we know someone on this boat committed the murder. Someone who had both the weapon and the opportunity, if not the motive.

"That brings me to a very significant aspect of the matter. Mr. Ogden had documents in his brief-case which he was using for purposes of blackmail. They were contained in these five envelopes. We have assumed that their recovery was the motive for his murder. Yet we find, after his death, that these papers are still intact!"

"That, I submit, is absurd. No one commits murder to gain possession of important papers and then walks away, leaving them behind! May there not have been something else in Mr. Ogden's brief-case that caused his murder?"

"I know there was something else. Ten thousand dollars, in large bills, intended as a bribe for Miss Burt! I saw them, when he opened the case in my presence last night! They are not in it now! Yet the satchel has not been out of my sight since his body was discovered, around four o'clock! And ten thousand dollars constitutes an adequate motive for such a crime."

"Given weapon, opportunity, and such a motive, whom should we suspect? Why not a man who was alone in this boat's pilot house from three o'clock, when Mr. Raskin left him, until three-thirty? Who has testified to hearing a shot at or near four o'clock . . . half an hour after Mr. Ogden was dead! Who may have made that statement to throw the guilt on someone else, not knowing that Mrs. Baudouine had seen Ogden dead at half-past three! Who is away from the wheel of the boat long enough for it to run aground in a broad river like the Potomac! Who could have slipped down to the deck at any time between three and half past, shot Mr. Ogden through the window, using a silencer later tossed overboard, secured this money?"

Congressman Hopper faced the young engineer across the narrow table, his pale eyes blazing. "Mr. Neilson," he shouted, "I accuse you of Mr. Ogden's murder!"

Kenneth Neilson, seated carelessly on the edge of the table, made no reply. Evelyn, watching him, thought he seemed vaguely amused. In his preoccupation he did not notice that Hugh Strawn had come up behind him, stood close at his side.

Suddenly the treasury expert raised his hand, plunged it inside Neilson's coat. An instant later he was backing across the cabin, a package of bills in his grasp.

Raskin shouted an oath.

"The dirty crook!" he burst out. "And he had the money on him all the time!"

FOR a long, tense moment Kenneth Neilson continued to sit on the edge of the table, his leg swinging. To Evelyn he did not look like a criminal, in spite of the evidence disclosed. But, whether criminal or not, he had been kind, even gentle, to her. With a sudden, impulsive gesture she ran to his side.

"I don't think you did it," she stormed, "whatever the rest say!"

"Thanks!" Neilson gave her a quick, darting smile; then his face drew once more into its habitual harsh lines. His hand dropped to the pistol at his side.

"Put that money on the table!" he snapped. "And be quick about it!" he went on grimly, when Strawn hesitated. "Unless you want to get hurt! Well, Congressman" — he grinned at Hopper — "I suppose your idea is to signal for help, turn me over to the police. No good. In the first place, I'm armed. In the second, I'm a good swimmer and would have no trouble at all in getting ashore with the loot." Still grinning, he thrust the package of bills back into his pocket.

"You wouldn't get far," muttered Raskin, "with the state police on your trail!"

"Probably not. That's why I'm staying. Also, there's another reason. I've got to find out who killed Mr. Ogden. I know it was one of you five!"

The little group in the cabin set up murmurs of indignation but he brushed them aside.

"Congressman Hopper, you have the key to Mr. Ogden's stateroom, I believe. Open it. We're going in there, all of us."

Ignoring the congressman's grumbled objections, he strode down the hall.

The small room was desperately crowded when they filed into it. Evelyn, Mrs. Baudouine, averting their eyes from the grim figure at the table, crouched on the narrow bed. Congressman Hopper, exhausted by his sleepless night, sank into a chair. Raskin and Strawn, standing against the wall, were the color of dry putty. Neilson, observing their bloodless faces, drew a bottle of whisky from the locker on which Mr. Ogden sat.

"You need a drink," he said, opening it. "Here." He took a glass from the table, half filled it, thrust it into Raskin's trembling hands. "Some of Mr. Ogden's private stock, same as you had last night. The bottle on the table is unfortunately empty." Pouring a generous supply of the liquor into a second glass, he gave it to Strawn. "This will make you feel better. Good stuff!"

EVELYN, watching him curiously, thought he was about to offer some of the whisky to Congressman Hopper; to her surprise, instead of doing so, he stepped to the table and emptied the rest of the liquor into the cracked bottle standing there.

"It is now just a quarter past eight," he said.

For a moment no one spoke. Lewis Raskin, who had taken a gulp of the raw whisky, shuddered slightly. Strawn placed his glass on the bookshelf at his side. Congressman Hopper's austere face wrinkled in a frown.

"What do you mean?" he muttered. "I'm in no mood for parlor tricks."

Neilson regarded his little audience with a cold smile.

"The bottle on the table is cracked," he said. "Was cracked, in fact, at the instant Mr. Ogden died. In falling forward he drove it against the water pitcher, with the result that the whisky leaked out."

"So what?" mumbled Raskin in a feeble voice.

"That bottle was full, last night, I know, because I opened it at Mr. Ogden's request. According to your own testimony, only two drinks had

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been taken out of it, before he was shot. When I came in here this morning, found Ogden dead, I marked on the bottle the exact level to which the whisky had then sunk. A pencil scratch on the label if you care to look for it. That was at three minutes past four."

"I've filled the bottle again, less two drinks. When the whisky leaks down to my pencil mark we'll know just how long it was between the moment that bullet sprawled Ogden on the table and the time I found him . . . three minutes past four. In other words, by counting back, we can tell within a very few minutes just when he was shot!"

He paused. The room was silent. Only the faint drip-drip of the whisky could be heard as it fell from the table to the puddle on the floor.

"Knowing the time he was shot won't tell us who killed him," Strawn whispered, glancing furtively at the dead man's bowed head.

"It will tell us," said Neilson, "who has lied."

Again the bleak silence, made almost intolerable by that relentless drip-drip-drip. Mrs. Baudoine shook with hysterical sobs. Raskin, as he watched the infinitesimal lowering of the liquor in the cracked bottle, might have been a figure of stone. Strawn's face was a yellow mask. Congressman Hopper pulled nervously at his collar; the fatigue of the night tore at his aged heart. When a quarter of an hour had passed, less than an inch of the whisky had filtered to the floor.

"Tiresome work," Neilson said cheerfully. "While we're waiting, let's get on to something else."

He took out his notebook, removed from it two fragments of paper.

"One of these I found while examining this room, with Congressman Hopper. It's pink, with wavy lines on it and one perforated edge. Obviously, the corner of a check. The other piece I found outside the window, washed into one of the scuppers. It seems clear that someone tore up a check, or checks, in this room last night and tossed the fragments out of the window. Before the storm, or during it, since the bit of paper was carried into the scupper by the rain. The larger piece has two letters of a typewritten name on it. They are 'in.' Curiously enough, those two letters occur in both 'Raskin' and 'Baudoine,' and in Congressman Hopper's first name, 'Austin.' They prove nothing, of course, but are interesting as corroborative evidence."

Congressman Hopper looked up with a tired smile.

"For the engineer of a house boat," he said, "you seem to know a great deal about such matters."

"Yes," Neilson agreed. "We have to. You see, I'm a special agent for the Department of Justice."

HE MADE the statement quietly, but a queer, electric thrill passed through the room. No one spoke; in the sudden silence that followed, the slow drip-drip of the whisky seemed to sound with the thunder of drums.

"I made you people tell your stories," Neilson went on, "instead of calling in the police, because I thought it the best way to get at the truth about this expedition. We've been greatly interested in Ogden's work as a lobbyist . . . that's why I'm here, on this boat. But as a government operative I'm only incidentally concerned

with his murder. Knowing the type of man he was, I can't say I feel any deep regrets."

His words were received without comment; only the monotonous dripping of the whisky from the table broke the silence of the room. Evelyn, listening to it, remembered a curious medieval torture of which she had once read: The victim sat bound in a chair, while water was allowed to fall, drop by drop, upon his head; in the end, the ceaseless repetition brought either confession, or madness. To someone in this room the endless dropping of that liquor into the pool upon the floor ticked off approaching doom. Who would crack under the strain of it? she wondered.

Neilson, with a glance at his watch, drew a small metal rule from his pocket.

"Eight-forty-five!" he said, setting the rule against the side of the bottle. "H'm! In half an hour, one third of the whisky, roughly, down to my mark on the label, has leaked out! That means, to reach the mark will take three times as long, or an hour

attempt to resume his former dignity. Evelyn, watching him, felt somehow desperately troubled by his plight.

"Sorry," he muttered, shaking back his snowy mane of hair. "I killed him! He deserved it! A man like that! A contemptible blackmailer! There were some checks of mine! He had them . . . with my name on the back! Tricked me into accepting them, when I needed money to save a place I own . . . where I was born!"

He gazed out of the window for a long, tragic moment, his eyes, over the water, seeking a vision farther afield.

"I'm not trying to justify myself! It's hard for any man in political life to keep honest! From the moment he arrives in Washington the hounds are after him. With offers to join exclusive clubs, take part in profitable financial deals. All bribes aren't money! They know how to get you . . . men like Ogden! Lobbyists!"

"I told him last night I would not support his bill . . . not in the form he wanted it! A man must be honest, in the end! He brought out those

Her father, technically at least, was a murderer; a fugitive from justice. What would the government do about that?

She turned to the staircase behind her, mounted to the broad upper deck. Mr. Neilson, she thought, was in the pilot house. When she reached its open window he had just removed a pair of earphones.

"Hello!" he nodded.

"May I speak to you?" Evelyn said.

"Sure. Just been doing a little radioing. Short wave. If that bunch in the cabin want any messages sent I can arrange it. I know you people didn't expect to be out all night. Your father, for instance, may be worrying . . ."

"It's my father I want to speak about. Will you have to report him to the police?"

Neilson began to laugh; a deep, warm chuckle.

"That's a state matter, not a federal one," he said. "And, anyway, do you think I would?"

"No." Evelyn arched her eyes at him; he was undeniably very good-looking; and nice. "I had an idea at first that you were terribly hard, but . . . I don't believe you are, now. Not really."

Neilson took a battered pipe from his pocket and began to fill it.

"Hard as nails, officially," he announced. "Have to be, in my line of work. Unofficially . . . well . . . I hope you'll give me a chance some time to prove I'm entirely human. I might drop around and see your father . . . have a talk with him. Our department has agents, you know, all over. Maybe we could do something."

"He'd be mighty glad to see you," Evelyn said. "And so would I."

"I hoped you might." Noticing that one of the girl's hands rested on the sill of the open window, Neilson laid his own brown fingers over it. "Strange, don't you think, our meeting like this . . . in the shadow of a tragedy? One man dead, and another . . . do you know, I feel sorry for Hopper. Poor devil! I doubt if he lives long enough to stand trial."

"You aren't hard," Evelyn said. "Not even officially. I thought for a moment, when they found that money in your pocket, that you might have killed Mr. Ogden, but when I looked at you I just knew you couldn't. Murder anybody, I mean. Of course, I know you could shoot a man . . . would, if you had to. That's what I like about you . . . you're . . . strong. Women always like that in men . . . the courage to do things . . ."

"No matter what the things are?" Neilson smiled, drawing her closer.

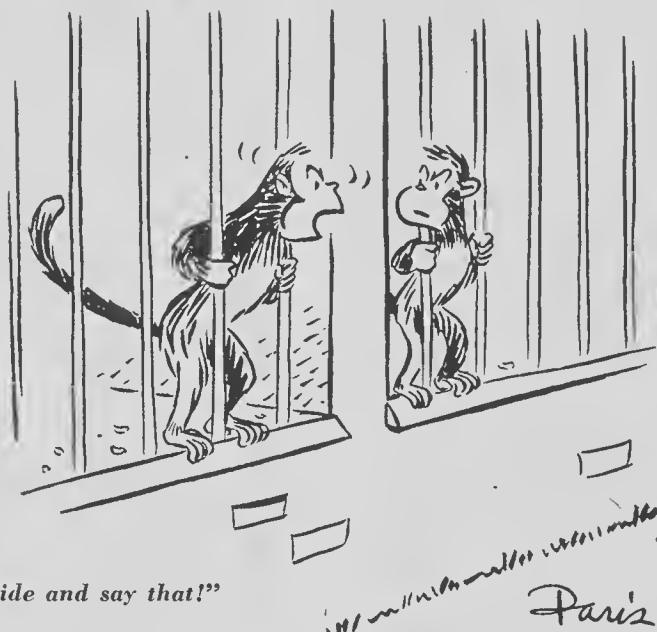
"Well . . . I didn't mean . . ." Evelyn's cheeks were suddenly and quite unaccountably red. "I didn't say . . ."

"You said 'the courage to do things.' Well, there's one thing I've been wanting to do ever since I first saw you, and since I know I'm going to do it eventually, why not now?" He drew her face inside the window and kissed her.

"Oh!" Evelyn gasped, but not unpleasantly.

The Vesta, shaking herself slightly after her long rest, rose from her bed of mud and sand on the flood tide, but the two at the pilot house window, being for the moment fully occupied, did not notice it for at least thirty seconds.

THE END



"Step outside and say that!"

and a half. But under the circumstances we do not need to wait all that time. Since I came in here about four o'clock, it is only necessary to count back to show that the murder took place at half past two! Right in the middle of the thunderstorm! Which is why no one heard the shot!"

Then Lewis Raskin spoke, mumbling the words in a queer, incredulous whisper:

"But," he said, "if that's true . . . if Ogden was killed at two-thirty . . . how could Congressman Hopper have been saying good night to him when I came into the corridor . . . at three o'clock?"

"How, indeed?" replied Neilson softly. "Unless he was saying good night to a dead man."

The federal agent stiffened his body as though against an expected attack. It came at once, with Hopper leaping furiously toward the table, his hands reaching for the whiskey bottle in an effort to silence forever that dreadful, accusing sound.

"Stop it!" he cried. "Stop it! I can't stand any more! Let me be!"

Almost gently Neilson pinioned his flailing wrists.

"I thought you were the one," he said. "But I had to be sure!"

Congressman Hopper stood leaning against his chair, gasping. His lips were blue; he seemed suddenly very old and feeble. After a moment he straightened his shoulders, made an

checks, then, covering the money he had lent me! I still refused, went back to my stateroom!

"In the middle of the storm he called me across the hall. We had a violent quarrel! When he became abusive, called me a name that reflected on my honor, I shot him! That is all! Went back to my room and threw the pistol out of the window. A little before three I crossed the hall again, glanced into his cabin. I wanted to be sure I had dropped no pieces of the torn checks on the floor. Then Mr. Raskin came in from the forward deck, and I pretended Ogden and I were saying good night. I'm glad to tell you about it. If I seemed willing to throw the blame on others, it was only to confuse matters, until the papers in his brief-case had been destroyed!"

The congressman fell silent. His fragile figure shook violently.

"My heart!" he whispered. "A bit weak! May I have a little of that whisky, before it . . . all . . . leaks . . . out?" . . .

EVELYN stood on the Vesta's after-deck. The morning was warm and brilliant. In the cabin at her back Mrs. Baudoine, Raskin and Strawn were destroying the papers and letters Neilson had returned to them; the government was not interested, he said, in their private scandals, their personal affairs. Her own case was different.

Confessions of a Fisherman's Wife

Something From The Lighter Side Of Life

by CHRISTINE A. MCLEAN

WHEN I married a fisherman I expected, among other things, to have fish to contend with. But my life has evolved into one long fishy problem.

I am not concerned primarily with the problem of how to catch the fish; neither am I prepared to demonstrate at length on how it is done. Much has been said and written on that perennial subject, and I am content to leave it to the experts and those who are more able to expound the theory to perfection. I am concerned as to what to do with the fish once it has been angled for, caught, landed, and dragged home. My husband, flushed with achievement, seems to lose interest in the project completely once it is lying cold, dead, limp, slimy and odorous.

Literally hundreds of fish have passed into my kitchen during the past 20 years. My favorite occupation when lying sleepless in the long, dark hours of the night is, not to count sheep, but fish! I try to figure how far they would stretch around the world if they were placed tip to tail. Figuring out the average catch, average length for the average season, sorting them into pickerel, jack, trout and perch, etc., is a soporific unequalled for those afflicted with insomnia.

I have honestly tried to use up this abundance of good food. I've boiled it, fried it, baked and glamorized it, but in the end it is always just fish! I search feverishly through all the magazines for new recipes. I've tried out every known method of utilizing it, and giving it away to those less fortunate people who do not possess fishermen for husbands.

In fact, the neighbors rapidly get to the stage where they stay carefully indoors on Monday mornings. They peep from behind their curtains and watch to see when I start off, loaded with fish for some distant friend, then they dash out and hang their clothes on the line, and retreat behind closed doors and lowered blinds for the rest of the day. It was not always thus. When we first moved to a new neighborhood the residents were delighted with our offerings! "Fresh fish! Oh, we love it! It's so expensive now too. Thanks so much!" Hooray! I've found someone who appreciates fish! Next week I take over three or four lovely six pounders which are received with a little less enthusiasm. "But really that's too much. I still have a little piece from last week." I press it upon her, however, extolling its virtues, and go home well content. But as the weeks pass I find my neighbor not quite so friendly. As I said there is a distinct air of avoidance on certain days. No doubt they run out of excuses as to why they cannot live on a complete diet of fish, and are afraid of hurting my feelings, so they just shun the issue.

ONE neighbor was quite frank from the start, and while I was a little astonished at first, I soon found her forthright attitude the best thing in the world. I still had company on wash-days, we thoroughly understood

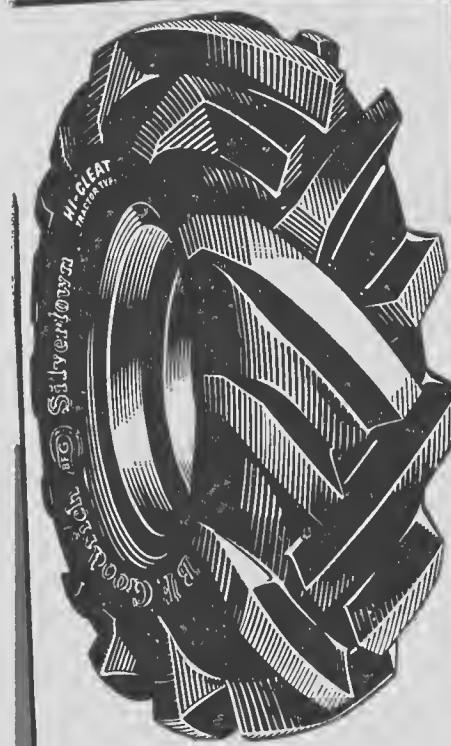
each other and all was well. Mrs. C. kept two lovely big cats. They were so large, glossy and well-fed, I felt sure they would enjoy our fish. After all cats are well known to love this type of food. But I reckoned without the upbringing of Mrs. C.'s cats! When I first offered her fish she graciously declined it, saying she was allergic to it, her husband could not eat it since it made him sick; and the children were all grown up, married, and living in different parts of the country. "But the cats," I said expectantly. "All cats love fish and yours are so sleek and beautiful." But my hopes were short lived. "Tommy and Tinker NEVER eat fish. They are allowed only a diet of ground liver, hamburger and milk. I could not take a chance on their health by giving them anything else." Dejectedly I picked up my fish, took them home and started phoning casual acquaintances to get rid of them. More recently the quick-freeze locker has helped my problem a little, but even that has begun to pall as we now have to eat fish continuously from June to January. The locker is so full of it we have no room left for turkey, pheasants, or other little delicacies.

I am distinctly opposed to letting one little speck of fish spoil. After all they are so beautiful, take so much energy and time to catch, to say nothing of gallons of gas spent in bumping over rough trails and through mud holes to some far distant hideout.

One summer we spent two weeks camping on a remote lake 75 miles from the city and nine miles over atrocious roads to the nearest village. The fishing was grand, each time the boat came in it was loaded with big, fat, shiny pickerel. These were piled joyfully up by the intrepid fishermen who rushed right back to get more. I sat and gazed mournfully at the increasing pile! Well, they would just have to eat them, that's all. I determinedly got out my deep fat kettle and made "doughnut fish." This is one of the family's favorite methods, and nothing is more delicious. The filleted fish is cut into servings, dipped in a pancake batter made with eggs and milk, and fried a deep, golden brown. We ate prodigious amounts and pitied the poor folks in the cities who had nothing but beef steaks and pork chops to consume. Towards the end of the first week, fish began to pall a bit. Various members of the party lost their appetite for some unknown reason. They began to demand a diet of milk and crackers, or garlic sausage and sauerkraut! But this did not deter them from fishing.

MADE an excursion to the nearest farm and bought ice. Packed the fish in layers and buried them beneath an old sawdust pile. I filled the small wash tub, dishpan and everything else around camp. But still there was fish! I sat down and stared at them. So much lovely food which would go to waste if I did not bestir myself somehow! And starving people in Europe too. Well, I would can it. I had no directions and very few jars, but these I packed with lovely

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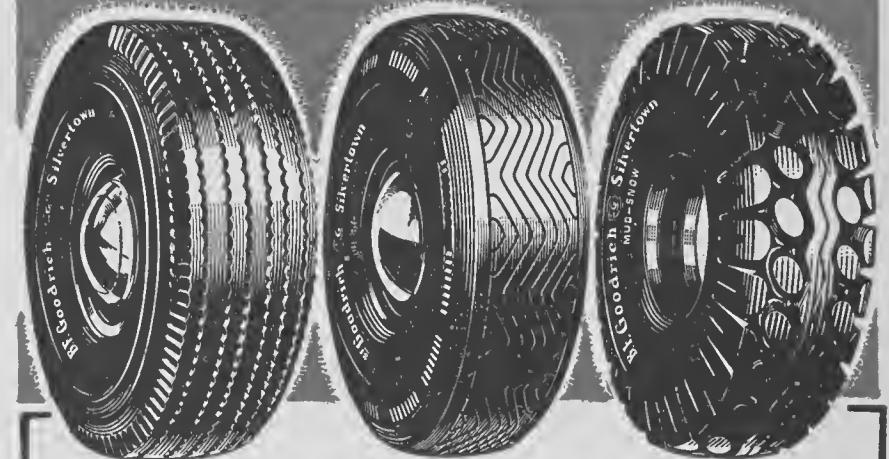


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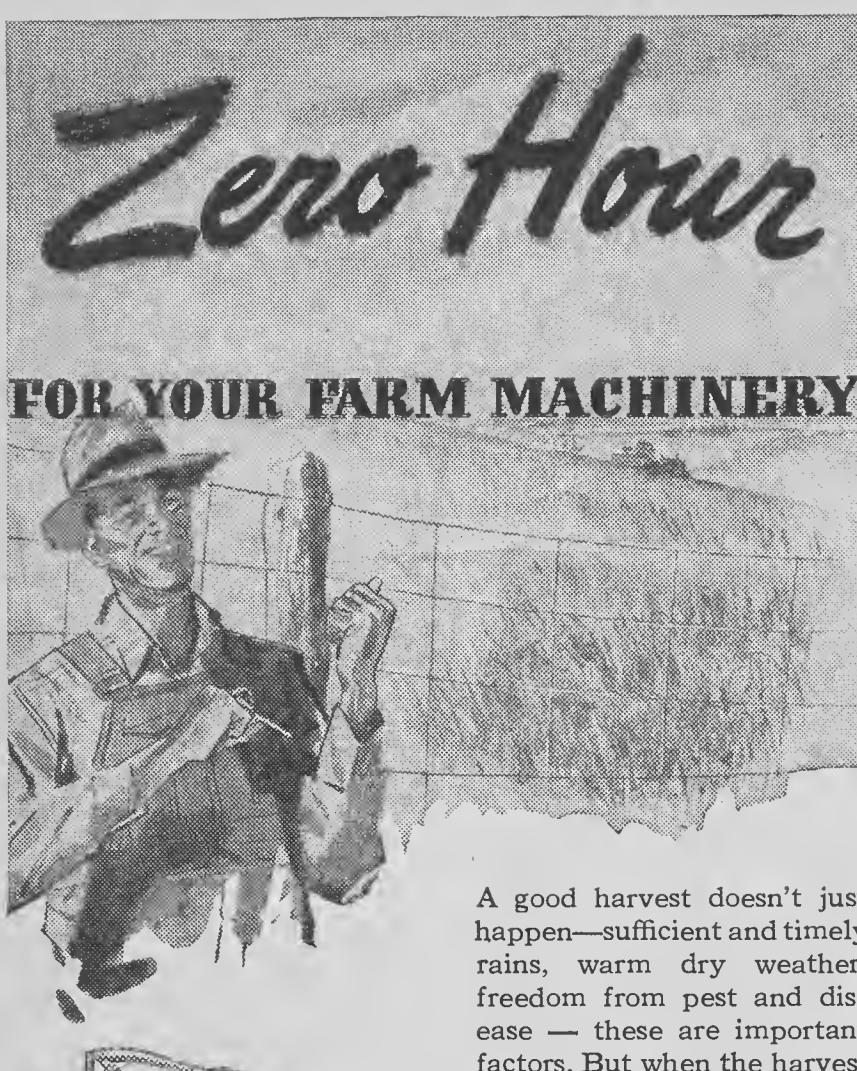
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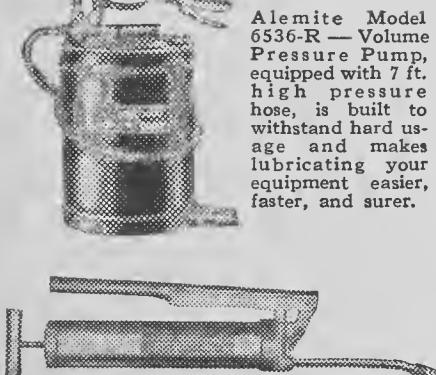
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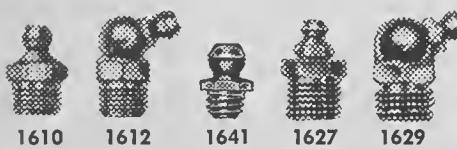
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white fillets, added a little water and vinegar, adjusted the rings, and boiled them for three hours. This used up all the gasoline on hand for the stove and someone had to go to town for more. But the fish pile was reduced. That was all I cared about. Incidentally, when the jars were opened they tasted like well stewed dish-rags.

Next I was able to give a large sackful to a passing farmer, who traded me a quart of cream for them. But the family rose at four-thirty the next morning, piled into the boat with new ardor, and came home with another good catch.

Why not smoke them! That's it, the Indians do it, and I'm part Indian by now anyway. When the camp was cleared up and the fishermen had departed for the other end of the lake where there were said to be bigger and better fish, I craftily laid my plans. First I put on a bathing suit and selected about 30 fish, 12 to 15 inches in length. These I split open lengthwise, cleaned and scraped them, and rubbed them thoroughly with salt. The next day I gathered large armfuls of wood under the trees, and made a small fire. Above the fire was my cake rack suspended from a branch on which I laid some of my "smokers." Then I threw on piles of green branches and grass, anything to make a smoke. I sincerely hoped there were no lurking redskins who might take it for smoke signals, and come hooting over the hill and scalp us all.

I WAS very successful in smoking myself and our Irish retriever, "Candy," who was always an interested spectator and tried to be helpful by shoving a cold, wet nose into my face as I struggled with more wood, more green branches, more grass, until I had the whole countryside looking like a devastated area, and as if a flock of sheep had invaded our little camping spot. Everything was smoked but the fish. The trailer was filled with it. It crept under the beds and into the blankets. It contaminated the butter. We ate smoke, slept with smoke, even the lake water tasted smoky. I could have passed for a smoked herring, being burned a deep saffron and brown shade, smudged with black streaks. But something seemed to be wrong! The fish came off the rack a distinct tattle-tale grey, oozing juice and salt. Discouraged I took them down and wrapped them in cloths to keep away the flies, who had a deep and abiding interest in the proceedings. Candy slunk under the trailer in disgust, afraid I would

expect her to partake of the finished product. From there she regarded all my movements with suspicion and begged me to understand she was an upland bird dog, and not interested in anything but birds, T-bone steaks and tinned dog delicacies.

After several days I opened my cloths to see how the product was keeping. The fish lay there, calm and pallid, ready to have the last funeral rites chanted over them. A persistent blow-fly or two had pushed its way in, and its aspiring progeny were crawling happily back and forth in their efforts to rid the world of pollution. Dismal failure again!

The next week, supplies were running short and we drove into the village. It is situated on a nice little fishing lake, where the residents, mostly foreign element, do their fishing in the winter through the ice. The summer sport is left to the cottagers or tired business men seeking relaxation. We arrived there with two sacks of fish, like carrying coals to Newcastle. It was a terribly hot day. The streets were deserted. Whether this was due to our presence is not known, but suspected. The fish in the back trunk became more slimy and odoriferous each passing moment. We had hoped to meet some friends there who were passing through on their way to Saskatchewan, and intended to surprise them with a nice load of fish. What they did with it was none of our business. Let them give it to friends or enemies—trade it for gas, or just lay them peacefully to rest in a ditch. After all the market price for pickerel fillets was 55 cents per pound. We waited patiently, but no sign of the approaching car. Friend husband began to fume. He was wasting time! He could be out on the lake fishing!

I took three beauties and went into the store to see if the proprietor would care for some. He did, but in small quantities. Becoming desperate I offered to stop every car that passed to see if the people were hungry and emaciated looking. But husband objected! "What do you think you are for goodness sake, a fishmonger? Besides people will think you are trying to sell them and we'll all get arrested." "Well, what am I to do, stay here and be smothered with fish for the rest of the holiday?" I asked witheringly. In the end he gave them all to the garage attendant, a young man back from overseas and the starving areas of Europe, who called forth all his friends and relatives and disposed of the residue.

Next year I intend to visit my much neglected mother for a change.



A tame mink playing with a cat on the farm of Irving Scott, Janesville, N.B.

THE farm man and woman wishing to build a house have lacked help up to the present, in the way of suitable designs and sound advice on the essentials of good farm house planning. This lack is now remedied to a degree by publications just off the press, and others now in progress and to follow shortly. These are the fruits of the work of the Prairie Rural Housing Committee, which is composed of representatives appointed by the respective provincial governments working in conjunction with the Dominion Government through its crown company, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Ten Farm Houses is the title of a book of plans, which with variations to several of the designs, provides 13 house plans for study and use. It has been produced by the Planning Research Centre, School of Architecture, University of Manitoba. Copies will be available in each province and will be distributed free of charge by the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba and Alberta and in Saskatchewan by the Department of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation as well as through any office of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which has branches in all the main cities. It will be possible to secure a working drawing of any plan shown by the payment of \$2.50. Arrangements have been made so that any prospective home builder or contractor may secure a cost estimate of materials required through the nearest lumber dealer. This service of cost estimates is provided to lumber dealers through the head office of their companies. There may be variation in costs of lumber and other building materials depending upon nearness of supplies, freight rates, etc.

There has been an urgent demand for immediate plans. The book of plans has been produced to meet that demand. It is the result of nearly two years of work which was required to secure co-operation of all the governments concerned, the finding of adequate and trained personnel to undertake the various projects and the business of getting the ideas simplified and put down on paper and properly illustrated.

It has received the careful consideration and criticism of persons in the three provinces concerned, who are acquainted with the practical problems of farm life. There have been the necessary compromises in viewpoint in order to achieve some practical and immediate result. It should be remembered that this is definitely a "preliminary publication." None of those most closely connected with its publication would claim that perfection has been achieved in any one design. Much research and many personal surveys will yet have to be undertaken. It is possible under the organization of the Prairie Rural Housing Committee to have such done. Criticism of farm people will be welcomed. Other and better advice and designs will no doubt emerge in the future.

THE bulletin points out: "In the past many farm houses have either been copied from those built in towns or have grown from one-room shelters to complicated and inconvenient dwellings through the addition of a room here and a room there. Too often a farm house or any house for that matter has been thought of as four walls and a roof built to shut out the elements and to include a series of rooms filled with furniture. More recently it has been recognized that the farm house is more than a shelter. Here the many and diversified activities of the farm family as individuals and as a group take place. Frequently these activities are in continuous progressive movement and may overlap in both time and space. Thus the problem of planning the farm house resolves itself into one of providing correlated spaces for independent and group activities."

In the past custom and prejudice have been strong factors in planning habits. Don't accept them as reasons sufficient in themselves for projecting or disagreeing with plans based on sound

Designs for modern farm houses now available as a result of the work of the Prairie Rural Housing Committee

by AMY J. ROE

principles. The planning work represented in this book, Ten Farm Homes, has followed accepted modern house planning procedure which analyzes and plans for human activity and comfort. Some of the features shown may seem odd and strange at first glance. Study them with mind open to new ideas. Some of those very features may well become accepted and welcomed points in the best houses built in the years that lie just ahead.

The new plans all show a bathroom and a utility room and most of them show varied use for basement space. An increasing number of farm homes in the future will employ electricity for light and power. With the use of forced draft in the heating and with walls well insulated it is possible to radically change house designs. The installation of a water system and electricity should be provided for now in every new farm house erected. Good

important points in modern planning. One, Plan No. 6, shows a house with only one entry. The rear entrance is more important than the front entrance in a farm house. Continuous traffic from the house to the barn and other buildings governs the household routine. In the same way the provision of a rear hall giving ready access to all rooms of the house is an approved feature in a farm house. Having a vestibule entrance at the front and doing away with a front hall gives a more spacious air to the living room. The new houses feature the "open plan," doing away wherever possible with partitions between dining room and living room and between hall and living room, which serves to make a small house seem more spacious.

The farm house has definite special needs. It is likely to have to accommodate a larger family than a town house. It must provide space where farm help is fed and lodged. It is more often a centre for community activities than an urban house. The farmer's house is his business "centre" and he should have some space for office work such as that connected with keeping accounts and records.

More space is usually required for large-scale household activities such as cooking, baking, meat-cutting, canning, laundering and a special place for work clothes and washing up. In addition, one needs a place for cream separator and churn and other utensils required for the handling of dairy products. In a sense the farm kitchen is a small factory and requires considerable equipment and work space in addition to the usual food preparation centre of the average room.

THUS the utility room has become a feature of good farm house planning. In a sense it replaces the old summer kitchen which served a useful purpose for storage all the year round. The book of farm house plans features the utility room either adjacent to or near the kitchen. It serves to house equipment needed for dairy and laundry work and can be used as a wash up area. This sets the kitchen itself apart for its special job of food preparation. By more compact placing of stove, refrigerator, sink, table and other work areas, the time and the energy of the farm household worker is conserved. The number of steps she has to take in baking or preparing a meal can be considerably reduced. At the moment of last-stage meal preparations she is spared interruptions from men or children cutting across her lines of travel. Small children may play in the utility room which is within easy range of vision and she is given much greater freedom in pursuing her own special tasks. She has ready access to the back door from either the kitchen or the utility room.

Heating the Home is the title of a bulletin to be out this month. It is prepared by the Engineering Department of the University of Saskatchewan as a special project of the Prairie Rural Housing Committee. It explains the various types of heating units suitable for the farm home and what results may be expected from the various types of fuel on the market.

A study of water systems and sewage disposal units for the farm home is being made by the University of Alberta; of wall construction and insulation by the University of Saskatchewan. The results will shortly be available in bulletin form. Repairs to the Farm Home is the title of a bulletin published early this spring by the Rural Housing Advisory Committee for British Columbia and distributed by the university of that province.

The information given in these bulletins and others still to come will be good assistance to the farm man and woman and the local contractor in building new houses or in improving existing structures. It is something which has been sadly lacking, up to the present. It will be welcomed by farm people. It is now possible to start on building up a small but useful library on home improvement, based on Canadian designs, conditions, materials and equipment.

Roads

*I cannot tell which road to take
So fair they are,
I know that each will have its hill
And each its star.*

*I cannot tell which road to take . . .
Life is soon done
And all her roads cry out to me
And I can choose but one.*

—INA BRUNS.

Forest Fire

*He sits on his haunches
Reaching avid hands
To tear down strong armed trees;
Licks up grassy lands.*

*And he roars with laughter
Fed by August drought
A hungry, gloating fire . . .
A forest in his mouth.*

—HELEN VIRDEN.

storage space for food, clothing and other family possessions will add greatly to the convenience and comfort of farm living.

Cost is usually a determining factor in deciding on a new house. In these new plans provision is made for future addition of rooms either on the ground level or by finishing of a second floor. With modern heating equipment using a forced draft operated by electric fan, it is possible to adequately heat rooms at some distance from the heating unit. It is also possible to have more variation in the placing of the furnace in a house.

The basement of the farm home often is largely unplanned. Much depends upon the water level in the area where you happen to live. If it is near the surface then the basement can not be sunk very deep, and it may be necessary to have several steps up to the entrance doors of the house. A basement offers good storage space for water supply, food, a possible recreation, hobby or workroom or even an extra bedroom at a comparatively low cost compared with the addition of an added storey. Plan No. 7 shows an attractive house built on two levels with a basement under one portion only.

The placing of doors and windows are highly

Tomorrow Is Wash-day

Look at its tasks with a critical eye and analyze them, to see if fatigue and time can be reduced

by MARGARET M. SPEECHLY

REGARDLESS of how you feel about it, wash-day is always just around the corner, and there is no escape from it. If you hate the very thought of the weariness associated with the job make a determined effort to do something about it. Dreading the work is useless, in fact it only increases your fatigue.

To clarify your thinking and get at the root of the matter, begin by putting down on paper the reason for your dislike of Monday's main job. You may discover it concerns something that is not laundering at all, such as an early morning schedule which uses up so much strength that you are weary before you start to wash.

Fatigue is unavoidable if you milk, separate, get breakfast, feed chickens, pack lunches, wash and scald the milk things, and look after small children. You may protest that few people attempt as much, but there are plenty of women who cannot get at the washing before the middle of the morning even if they are up at daylight.

Therefore, look with a critical eye at the first part of your day. Even though you do not actually help with the milking, you would find it a saving of strength if only enough were done for the needs of your family. This would eliminate separating and the care of the milk utensils, which would save at least an hour if not more.

Are you doing any work with the poultry that could be avoided? If the men were in charge, it would be no time before they simplified the heavy chores of carrying water and feed. Study your set-up and make an effort to save energy of all kinds.

As one of the senior partners in your business, are you using every available source of help? Could you delegate to the older children some of the lighter chores you are now doing? If you organize things well, they might get the younger ones ready for school and even pack the lunches. Are there older people in your connection who would be happy to attend to the phone, or the meals while you attack the laundry?

Notice that these suggestions involve head-work on your part rather than physical activity. As you go further, you may discover many other ways of cutting down the work that you need to handle personally. Every reduction is important, because it lessens the tension and pressure that build up fatigue.

IT may be that instead of hating the thought of wash-day, you should start thinking about it sooner. If you handle the job on Monday in order to get it out of the way early in the week, begin on the previous Friday by planning the meals in advance, so you won't have a wash-day dinner on your mind.

Perhaps it would be easier in the long run, if you washed on Tuesday. This would allow you to replenish the food supply on Monday after the week-end. Also you could straighten the house, collect the laundry and re-

move stains. Many good managers follow this plan because they find it does away with some of the rush and hurry.

Others go further and arrange to do the washing on Saturday when the older children are at home. Not only does the work get done with less effort, but they step through the ironing on Monday morning when the rest of the world is just starting to wash. This head-start on the week's work is good for the morale.

Everybody likes to finish the wash-

you consider it from every aspect. Further, the whole family must co-operate. Discuss the problem with them and use every possible means of reducing the toil of wash-day.

The better your grip of the whole situation, the better you will be able to cope with the emergencies so liable to crop up in the middle of a washing. Maybe the phone rings madly, or the neighbor's pigs come visiting, or horses gallop in the gate, or the cows get in the garden. Only by perfecting your management can you handle



ing before dinner, but if you have to work at high pressure to accomplish this, it might be easier on your nerves to deal with half the job in the morning and the balance after noon. Some women with small children and limited strength prefer to leave the washing until the afternoon when the children need less attention.

The frequency with which you wash clothes may influence your attitude towards the work. Instead of once a week, some people deal with it every fortnight because they believe it saves time, energy, water and soap. The alternate week can then be used for the seasonal chores so hard to fit into a full schedule. There are others who find it less fatiguing to wash twice a week, since a smaller amount can be completed more quickly.

All this underlines the importance of flexibility in planning work in the home. Fatigue is such an individual matter. It is not only physical but mental. It cannot be reduced unless

so you constantly have to climb over the pipe, you are liable to trip and fall. In any case the fear of an accident greatly adds to the nervous strain.

Make sure that you are doing the washing in the most convenient spot. Can you reach with as few steps as possible, the stove, the source of water, the phone, and the children's play yard? Some people in order to keep the mess out of the kitchen do the job in a wash house. Before trying this, be certain that in your case a clean kitchen floor counterbalances the energy expended.

Whatever you decide, see that you have enough space for working comfortably. Place the washer, tubs and other equipment so that each step in the job proceeds smoothly, with sufficient room to allow you to move freely. The very latest equipment arranged poorly, would waste your strength instead of conserving it.

A smooth floor is absolutely essential. If the surface is uneven, soft or broken, you will have the extra annoyance of blocking the legs of the washer and tub-stand. For holding the tubs do not be content to use wooden boxes or backless chairs with wobbly legs because they add greatly to nervous and physical strain. A sturdy stand on casters allows you to move the tubs to the water supply, provided the floor is smooth and even.

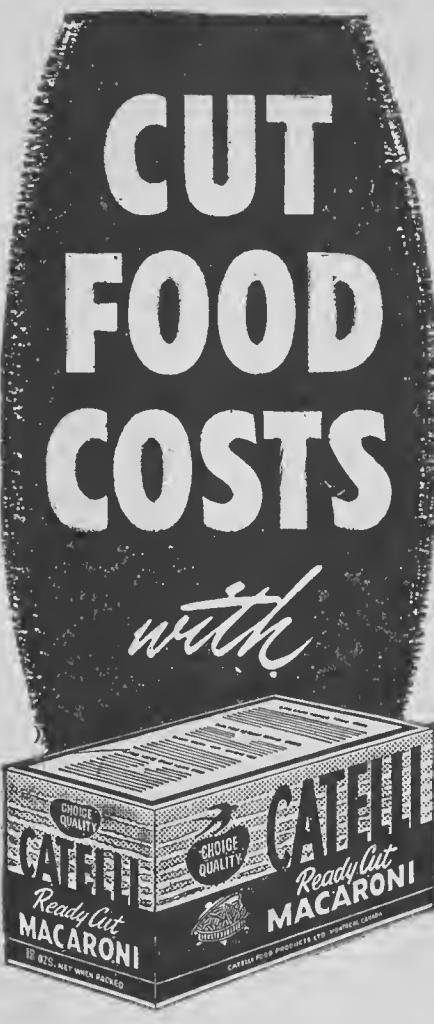
Check all your equipment to see if you can stand erect while using it, since unnecessary bending wastes a great deal of energy. Even your method of sorting clothes may be extravagant. If you place them in piles on the floor, you stoop needlessly and the clothes may or may not pick up the dust. Conserve your strength by doing the job at a large table or high bench which allows you to stand erect.

Week after week, year after year, vast amounts of precious strength are squandered in lugging wet clothes to the lines. Cut down this waste by using baskets instead of tubs or pans, and push or pull the loads on junior's play cart or the discarded wheels from an old carriage. If possible, have the wagon raised so that you do not need to bend as you hang out the clothes.

BY reviewing your set-up carefully, you will be able to find out where the leaks in strength occur. Each case is different and requires special measures, but anything deserves attention that cuts down the bending, stretching, walking, lifting and carrying associated with wash-day.

Did you ever calculate how many tons of water you have lifted during your life? A standard bucket weighs 18 to 20 pounds. Multiply that by the number of pails you have carried not only into the house, but out of it, and don't forget to count the re-lifting connected with filling and emptying the boiler, tubs and washer. You will be staggered by the figure. Perhaps it is your own fault for putting up with this heavy toil. No man would.

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your husband the question of installing some kind of water system. Some are quite simple and can be added to later provided you have a plan in mind. To help you to decide on the best type for your conditions, get advice from the university, companies that sell water systems, the nearest plumber, and if possible, talk to a friend who has already installed improvements.

Figure out the cost of what you would like to install. You will be amazed at the smallness of the sum compared with the thousands of dollars put out for farm machinery. Then go a step further and figure the cost of not having a water system! Doctor's bills, hospital expenses and the suffering caused by a breakdown amount to huge drain on a family's resources. In any case a water system is cheaper than a funeral.

Buying a New Iron

by RUTH JOHNSTON

THIS year appliance dealers are displaying a great variety of electric hand irons. Whereas several years ago it was a question of "What kind of an iron can I get?", it is now a matter of "What kind of an iron do I want?" Whether you are buying your first electric iron, replacing an old one, or choosing one for a new bride, you will likely find yourself confronted with a huge assortment of light irons, heavy irons; fancy ones, and plain ones; small ones and big ones; non-automatic ones and fully automatic ones. But before making any purchase, the wise homemaker will look beyond the obvious features with the following questions in mind:

Has it a heat control? No longer is it necessary to plug an iron in and out as it becomes too hot or too cool. Even moderately priced irons are usually equipped with some kind of heat control. In some, this will be in the form of a small dial with just "cool, medium, and hot" listed. In most of the better ones, the heat control lists the fabrics, starting with "rayon" at the cool end of the dial and ending with "linen" at the hottest end of the dial. By setting the dial at the fabric to be ironed, you are assured of even temperature which will be neither too hot nor too cool for the fabric being ironed. This dial should be located in such a position that it does not become too hot to touch or interfere with grasping the handle of the iron. It should be easy to turn, even when the iron is hot. Watch out for the dials that will get as hot as the iron itself or the ones that become "knuckle bumpers" each time you grasp the handle. Several excellent irons are made with an easily operated dial located on the front of the handle where it may be effortlessly turned with a flick of the thumb.

How much does it weigh? The answer to this question should be a vital concern when buying a new iron. Until recently it was firmly believed that the heavier the iron, the better the ironing results. Research experiments have now proven that this is not true. Correct heat and proper dampening of fabrics are the most important factors. In the light of this

(Turn to page 53)

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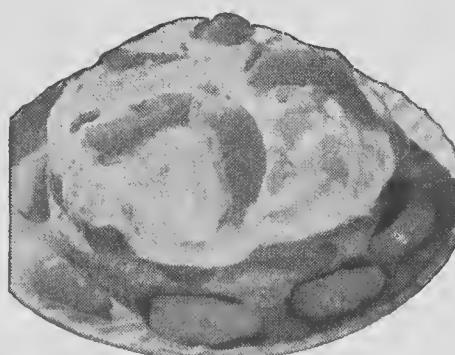
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Fruit for Dessert

When in season serve them often

by MARION R. MCKEE



Peach shortcake

DURING the summer months there is a greater abundance of fresh fruits than at any other time.

Later in the season blackberries, saskatoons, peaches, pears and other fruits make an appearance. From these delicacies many different and tasty combinations may be made. Fortunately it is a simple thing to substitute one fruit for another in recipes, giving the homemaker a great variety for her summer meals.

For the sake of health one serving of fresh fruit should be served daily. This may be for breakfast, lunch or supper.

Peach Meringue Shortcake

2 c. flour	1/4 c. sugar
3 T. baking powder	1/3 c. butter or other shortening
1/2 tsp. salt	2/3 c. milk

Sift flour with baking powder, salt and sugar, then cut in butter or shortening. Add milk gradually, mixing lightly. Turn into greased cake pan and pat out evenly. Bake in moderately hot oven (400 degrees Fahr.) for 20 minutes. When done split shortcake, fill centre with sliced peaches, put top on and cover with peach meringue topping, garnished with sliced peaches.

Peach Meringue Topping

2 egg whites	2/3 c. peaches
2/3 c. sugar	

Beat egg whites stiff, add one-third cup of sugar gradually. Mash the peaches, and add to egg whites alternately with the remaining sugar. Beat after each addition. Fruits other than peaches may be substituted in this recipe.

Raspberry Custard Pie

3 c. raspberries	1 c. sugar
2 T. flour	2 T. butter
2 eggs	pastry

Line a deep pie pan with plain pastry. Crimp the edges attractively. Pick over and wash berries. Sprinkle with three-quarters cup of sugar and let stand one-half hour. Beat egg yolks until light. Drain syrup from berries, mix with flour and stir until smooth. Add to the egg yolks and beat well. Add melted butter. Arrange drained berries in the pie shell and pour the custard over. Bake 20 minutes at 450 degrees Fahr. Reduce to 350 degrees Fahr. and bake 15 minutes. Make a meringue with two egg whites stiffly beaten and one-quarter cup of sugar. Pile in peaks on pie and bake 25 minutes at 275 degrees Fahr. or until nicely browned. Blueberries and other fruit may be used in this recipe.

Meringued Pears

6 large pears	candied ginger
6 T. granulated sugar	3 egg whites
grated lemon rind	1/4 c. powdered sugar

Pare and core the pears, and place them in a baking dish. Fill the centre of each with one tablespoon of granulated sugar and a little grated lemon rind or

candied ginger. Add three or four tablespoons of water and bake until the pears are tender. Then cover with a meringue made of stiffly beaten egg whites and the powdered sugar, and brown this quickly.

Peach And Rice Custard

2 c. boiled rice	1 1/2 c. milk
3 1/2 c. fresh peaches, sliced or halved	2 egg yolks 1 tsp. almond extract
3/4 c. sugar	1 c. sifted dry bread crumbs
4 T. flour	1/4 tsp. salt

Mix together the sugar, flour and salt in the top of a double boiler, add one-half cup milk, the egg yolks, and beat the mixture well. Then add the remaining one cup of milk, and cook the mixture in a double boiler 20 minutes until thick, stirring it occasionally. Remove from heat, add flavoring, and fold in rice. Cover the bottom of a greased loaf pan with one-half of the bread crumbs, pour in one-third of the rice custard, then cover with a layer of one-half of the peaches. Repeat a layer of rice custard, a layer of peaches, and finally the remaining one-third of the custard. Sprinkle the rest of the bread crumbs over the top and bake in a moderate oven (about 350 degrees Fahr.) about 20 minutes. Let cool slightly before unmolding; then slice and serve with whipped cream or sauce.

Blueberries Columbia

1 pint blueberries	1 T. powdered sugar
1/2 c. whipped cream	few grains nutmeg
1 banana	

Wash blueberries; place in individual serving dishes. Whip cream slightly. Peel banana; press through fine sieve. Add banana puree, sugar and nutmeg to cream. Pour over blueberries. Serves four.

Baked Cantaloupe

2 cantaloupes	mint sprigs
3 c. sliced peaches	1/2 c. sugar
	few grains mace

Halve cantaloupes and remove seeds. Combine peaches, sugar and mace. Fill cantaloupes with peaches arranging slices in radiating pattern on top. Bake in hot oven (425 degrees Fahr.) 15 minutes. Garnish with mint. Serve at once. Serves four.

Fresh Fruit Floating Island

1/4 c. sugar	few grains nutmeg
2 tsp. cornstarch	2 c. well-drained sliced peaches, plums, pears, blueberries or other fruit.
1/4 tsp. salt	
2 c. milk	
3 egg yolks	
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract	
1/8 tsp. almond extract	Meringue Crown (see below)

Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt; gradually add milk. Cook over hot water; stirring constantly, until slightly thickened. Beat egg yolks; add hot milk mixture. Cook over hot water, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and coats spoon. Cool. Add vanilla and almond extracts and nutmeg. Pour into shallow serving dish; add one cup fruit. Chill. Top with meringue crown. Fill crown with the remaining fruit. Serves four.

Meringue Crown

3 egg whites	6 T. sugar
few grains salt	

Beat egg whites stiff but not dry. Gradually add sugar and salt, beating constantly. Pile meringue in ring on greased nine-inch pie plate. Place in shallow pan of warm water. Bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees Fahr.) 20 minutes. Cool.

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New Potatoes

Many ways to use these delicious vegetables

NEW potatoes are a treat welcomed by the family at this time of the year. With the supply good at this season it is well to consider all possible ways of using them to bring out their full flavor. Possibly you have your own favorite way of seasoning them, adding a bit of green onion, parsley and butter. Here are a few other methods of serving them which the family or special guests will be sure to welcome:

New Potatoes With Parsley Sauce

6 medium sized new potatoes	1 T. lemon juice
4 T. melted butter	4 T. minced parsley

Cook potatoes in jackets; remove jackets. Combine butter, lemon juice, and minced parsley. Add potatoes, toss till coated. Serve hot. Serves six.

Dutch Potatoes

6 medium sized fat salt pork potatoes	(optional)
6 small sausages or frankfurters	

Scrub potatoes. With an apple-corer cut a tunnel through the centre of each lengthwise. Draw a frankfurter or sausage through the cavity. Place in a shallow baking pan and lay a piece of fat salt pork (optional) on each potato. Bake at 450 degrees Fahr. until the potatoes are tender. (About one hour).

Potatoes Au Gratin

3 c. seasoned mashed potatoes or creamed potatoes
1/4 c. fine bread crumbs
1/2 c. grated cheese

Place potatoes in shallow baking dish and sprinkle with bread crumbs and grated cheese together. Bake in moderate oven (375 degrees Fahr.) 20 minutes until light brown.

Potato Fluff

3 c. seasoned mashed potatoes	
2 well beaten egg yolks	
2 egg whites	2 T. fat

Combine potatoes, egg yolks and fat. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into mixture. Put in casserole or baking dish and bake in moderate oven (375 degrees Fahr.) 20 minutes until light brown. Serve at once.

Potato Pie

Line a greased baking dish with a thick layer of fluffy mashed potatoes. Fill centre with creamed vegetables, meat, chicken or fish. Cover top with layer of potatoes. Sprinkle buttered cracker or bread crumbs over top and bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.) for about 30 minutes.

Belgian Baked Potatoes

Prepare potatoes as for French fries, cutting into eighths lengthwise. Dip in hot fat and lay in a shallow pan so pieces do not overlap. Bake in a quick oven, 400-500 degrees Fahr., until brown on top, turn carefully to continue baking. Baste with fat if necessary. Sprinkle with salt and serve piping hot.

Creamed New Potatoes and Cucumbers

18 small new potatoes	2 c. medium white sauce
2 c. diced cucumbers	

Boil potatoes in jackets until tender. Remove skin and add potatoes to hot, white sauce. Add cucumbers, heat, and serve at once. Six servings.

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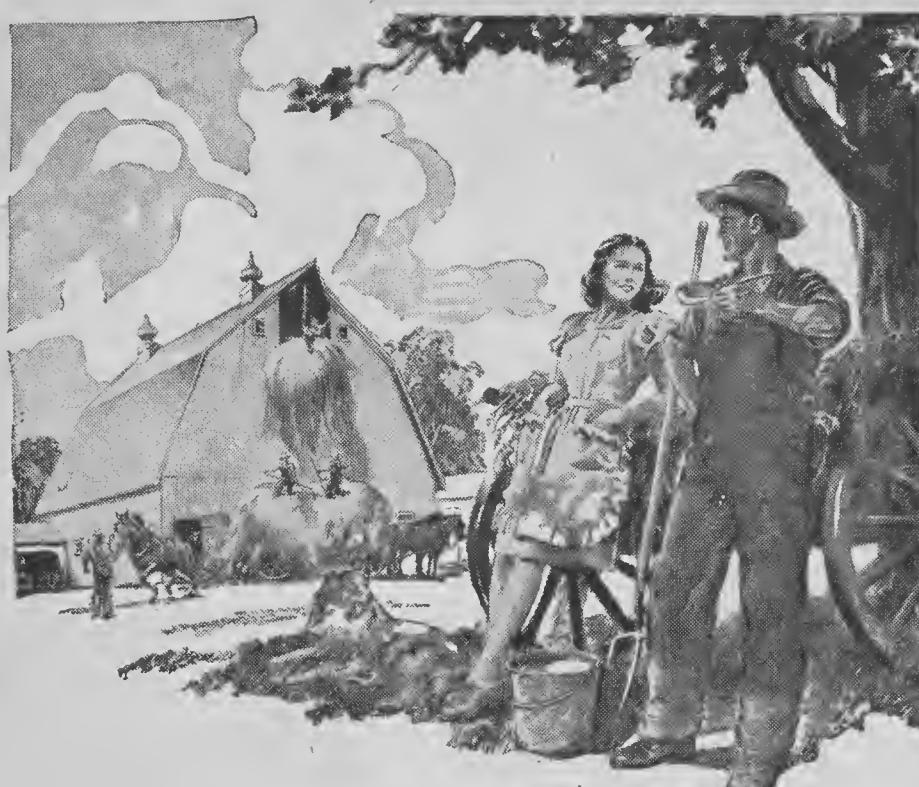
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A New Beauty Approach

Overcoming the cause of any disturbance to good looks is the best way to improved appearance

by LORETTA MILLER

BAD posture contributes more to unattractiveness than any other one cause . . . unless the other cause is frowning. At least that is the opinion of a number of beauty authorities who met recently to discuss the beauty problems of women all over the world. It was agreed that good carriage, plus a certain amount of personality, went farther to make a girl truly lovely than did perfect facial features. A really beautiful girl might easily spoil her appearance by the wrong use of makeup, an unbecoming hairdo or by a careless carriage, but the girl with good posture is quite certain to have distinction and the ability to look lovely.

Let's trace a simple thing like double-chin or an unattractive underchin. This should prove of special interest to the girl who is overweight, or who is worrying about her chin looking old. Prove my point to yourself this way: Stand correctly and bring your heels together with toes pointing straight ahead. Now push your hips back, so that they seem to be on an even line with your feet. Draw in your abdomen, raise your chest and straighten your shoulders. Straighten your neck, too, as you stretch it just a little. At this point your chin will be in perfect line. But if you try to straighten your neck without going through the preliminary adjusting of your body, you will find your chin tilted upward in an unnatural position.

To help check or prevent unattractive chin lines remember to straighten your body and stretch your neck. Always begin at the source of the trouble. Patting lotions and creams over a double or old-looking underchin won't accomplish a thing if you continue to encourage the condition by bad posture.

More discussion among the beauty authorities brought out the fact that untold numbers of apparently minor figure faults could be traced directly to bad posture. Bumps on the hips, so-called spare tires, and even too large waistlines are more often than not the result of standing incorrectly. It was agreed, too, that girls who wear slacks get into the habit of bad posture more readily in this type of sport clothes. (The reason is undoubtedly because the waistline of the slacks does not fit snugly, so the wearer extends her tummy in order to hold the slacks in place.)

MINUS your girdle and shoes, stand correctly, drawing in the abdomen and stretching your torso as you pull your body up to its full height. Notice how quickly the bumps disappear from the hips and the spare tire and large abdomen vanish. Look at your new figure from all angles.

The habit of standing, walking and sitting correctly, with torso stretched, will soon put an end to the middle-figure defects mentioned here.

Instead of attempting to cover up facial blemishes by adding layer upon layer of makeup, or trying to "treat" the blemishes themselves, it was



Jane Greer makes use of a lotion

agreed that the only practical plan is to attack the trouble at its source. Facial blemishes don't "just happen." They appear because of any one of several causes: Wrong diet, faulty elimination, improper skin cleansing, lack of scalp and hair cleanliness and too much tampering with the skin. But regardless of the majority of reasons given, the basic cause is generally uncleanness, whether it is internal or external.

External cleanliness means that the skin must be washed with soap and water at least once, preferably twice, each day and always with a clean washcloth or complexion brush. It should then be dried with a clean towel. Also, powder and rouge puffs and everything that touches the skin should be clean. Internal cleanliness means that a sufficient amount of water and the proper food should be taken each day to keep the body functioning normally.

Another problem facing a great many women is dry skin. One of the chief causes of this condition is lack of moisture and lubrication, both internally and externally. Unlike the oily, blemished skin, dry skin sufferers usually forget to drink enough water and their natural diet does not include enough butter or other oil or grease. This parched skin condition is often greatly helped by nothing more than an extra glass of water taken between meals, and perhaps an extra piece of butter on bread, plus more butter added to cooked vegetables. Even a salad dressing with olive oil, if used three or four times each week, will contribute its share toward overcoming dry skin.

POOR circulation is the cause of more than one type of hair and scalp trouble: It is at fault for both excessively oily scalp and hair, as well as an extremely dry condition. Check poor circulation by more activity through the day, or by brushing the hair thoroughly once each day, and either of these conditions will soon be counteracted. The application of various types of hair and scalp tonics makes the brushing of the hair, as well as the scalp massage, pleasanter and more interesting although such applications are almost incidental to the basic corrective

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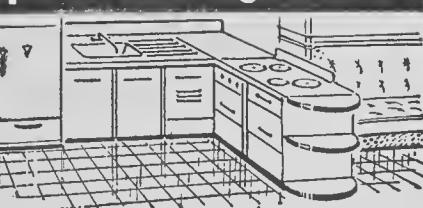
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method which is improved circulation.

Shoes that are either too large or too small, or just badly fitted shoes that squeeze the foot or allow too much room, play havoc with one's carriage. Unknown to their owners, unhappy feet are soon reflected in one's facial expression. Large, loose shoes mean that the wearer is cramping her toes in an effort to hold the shoes on her feet. Also, heels are held close to the floor so that the shoes won't slide off and this prevents walking correctly. Muscles through the legs soon become cramped and before long the whole body is out of line and the carriage is unattractive. Slip into shoes that fit so that the feet are happy and the whole world seems brighter. So instead of looking to bad arches and corns for all manner of foot trouble, the real solution is in properly fitted shoes.

BUYING A NEW IRON

Continued from page 49

new knowledge, Mrs. Homemaker thinks twice before she purchases the six and one-half pound model when a three to four pound one would do the job just as well. She figures she might as well save her strength for other things—and rightly so.

What is the handle like? Here, again, you'll notice all kinds of variety. There are shaped enamelled ones with or without attached thumb rests, upright wooden ones with metal supports which are bolted to the main body of the iron, and all kinds of streamlined bakelite handles designed to fit the hand. Whatever iron you choose, make sure that the handle is comfortable to hold, securely attached to the rest of the iron, and genuinely heat resistant. Sore hands, loose bolts, burned knuckles and blistered paint are some of the unhappy results of poorly constructed handles.

Has it any special features? More often than not, an iron will be purchased because of one particular outstanding feature. It may be because it is extremely light in weight, or because of the slotted point for easy ironing around buttons, or because it is so comfortable in the hand. All sorts of strange and special features are being shown on the newer irons. Like the one that is pointed at both ends to make it possible to iron backwards as well as forwards. Or the one with the hinged "tip-toe" end for easy ironing of hard-to-get-at corners. But perhaps the newest and most ingenious one is the one with the "never lift" feature. This consists of two flat prongs in the bottom of the iron which automatically spring into position to prop the iron up when you pause to arrange the fabric. With slight pressure on the handle they neatly fold back into the sole of the iron when the ironing operation is resumed. In this way, it is truly a "never lift" iron.

Is it guaranteed? Your guarantee with the iron will specify whether it is for the element only, or for the whole iron. Ordinarily these do not cover damage due to dropping or other misuse of the iron. Read your guarantee before you make the purchase. Most good irons are guaranteed for at least one year of ordinary usage.



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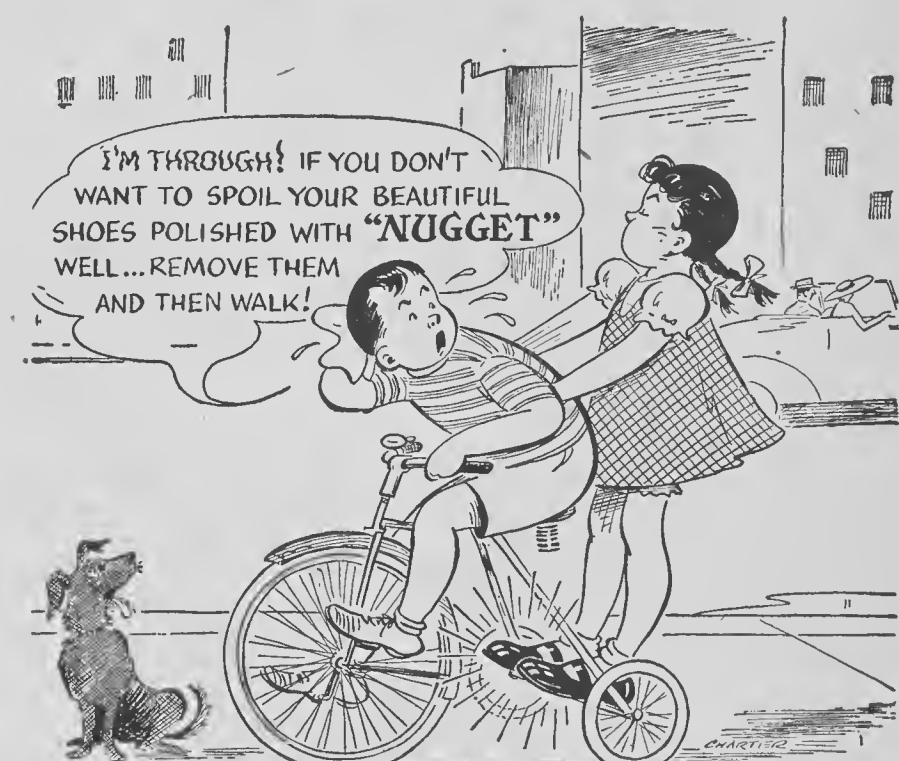
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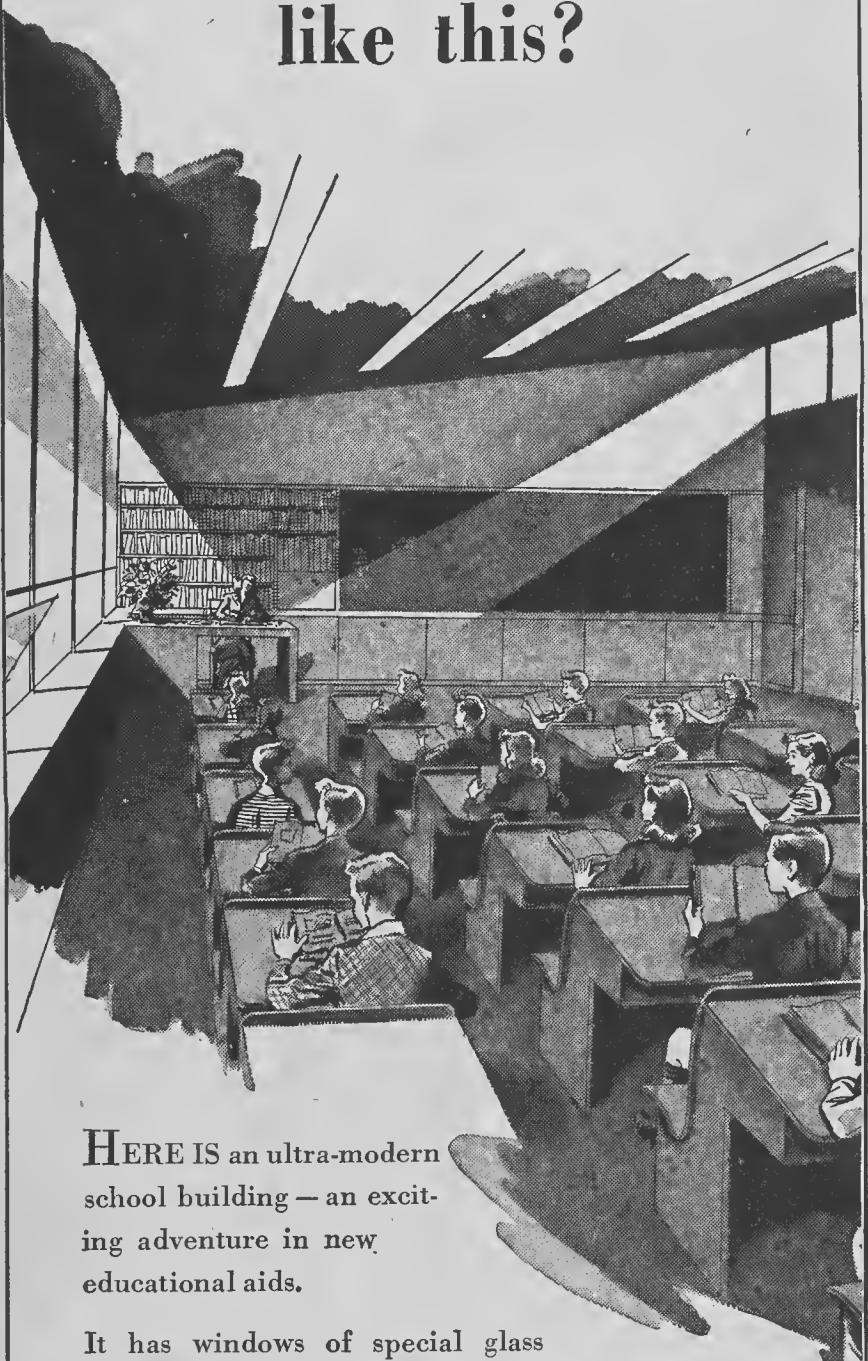
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Moonlight Journey Home

Here is no harsh aspect, nothing but generosity, beauty, peace, and I discover the real meaning of home

by GILEAN DOUGLAS

SONGS are sung and tales are told, darkness dreams upon the sky when I leave my neighbor's clearing. A full moon is rising over Sable Mountain as I strike into the forest on Swamp Road and set out for home. My path follows a stream bed of ferns and mossy boulders precipitously down to the Teal and then swings directly west just along the bank, where the hungry river is nibbling at the trail.

Beyond, the salmonberry brush is higher than my head and I have to find my way through it by the feel of the path under my feet. At the edge of another clearing, about a mile away, are two old logging cabins. Stinging nettles rake across my hand and I stand still, thinking for a moment that I can see the graceful dancers of the Ballet of Swan Lake move across the moon-flooded open space towards the glimmering water. The princess of that tale was not the only person who wove nettles into cloth: Europeans and Asiatics have made fine linen from them for centuries. The Indians here wove them into cord and the cord into fishing nets, besides using both roots and leaves for food. I can see tiny tents of the red admiral caterpillar on these nettle leaves and if it were daylight I am sure that I would find the green caterpillars of the tiger swallowtail on the nearby bitter cherry; embryo Compton tortoise-shell butterflies on the willows and most certainly the misleadingly named saltmarsh caterpillar of the dainty—and equally misnamed—saltmarsh tiger moth.

This night is too lovely to say good-night and so, with the moonlight full on my face, I slip quietly past the cabins and sit down on a log at the river's edge. As always, the hypnotism of its flowing is like a soft, compelling hand across my eyes and never more so than now when each ripple is enchanted to onyx or to silver and darkness is changeling of the moon.

A LITTLE way downstream I can see the shadow of the big cedar which was felled for a footbridge and now stretches from bank to bank. A young lad who was placer mining here last summer admitted to me that when he crossed it once at high water he was so scared he "cooned" it along the tree trunk. I can imagine how the river snarled below him, reaching up with clammy, urgent fingers to loosen his grip of the narrow bridge. For the course of the Teal is direct and steep, so at all seasons of the year its voice can be heard; softly in midwinter and midsummer, loudly in fall and spring when the heavy rains and the freshets of melting snow turn it into a brown monster raging from bank to bank and driving the driftwood before it. Bridges go out then and the growl of rolling boulders can be heard night and day.

The night-scent of earth and the river-scent of water mingle in my nostrils as I walk slowly along my favorite part of Swamp Road; a clear, wide pathway carpeted with moss and roofed with evergreen and maple branches. Quietness lies here like deep velvet. No other large animal seems

to be abroad tonight, but now and then a wood rat agitates the bracken and a field mouse stirs in last year's leaves. Moonlight filters through the trees, arabesques the forest floor and, where the trail contacts the river, makes pinpricks of argent light on ripple and tiny waterfall.

Now the trail enters a still deeper part of the forest and I switch on my flashlight. Its beam picks out alpine beauty, star flower and dwarf cornel blooming beside the path and as I move it from place to place I find that I am in a veritable wild garden of forest flowers. False Solomon's seal is here, with alum root, twisted stalk and foam-flower. Red columbine, pink twin-flower and blue larkspur glow against the ivory bells of black nightshade and the white flowers of blackberry and thimbleberry. The shining leaves of Oregon grape background bleeding heart and wild currant. It is a heart-stirring sensation to walk through such drifts and pools and hanging gardens of scent and color, flashing my light here and there to watch them come strongly and impressively out of the soft darkness..

THE way seems unbelievably short and almost before I know it I am on the river bank opposite my clearing. I never come out on the shores of the Teal just at this place without feeling a surge of joy at the sight of my little cabin snuggled down between the mountains and the forest. It is so simple and real and lovely. Here is everything I want and more than I ever hoped to have. The green roof, the bark walls, the flowers, the vegetables, the filled woodshed—every tree, bush and stone, every foot of earth is dear to me. Inside, the words of friends fill my bookshelves and my companion, fire, will come when I call him. There is no harsh aspect, no lie, no bitterness anywhere; nothing but generosity, beauty and peace. I never knew before the real meaning of the word "home."

Now the cabin is just a dark outline silhouetted by the moon, but it is there and it is mine. Swiftly I climb the platform to the cage and launch myself out over the river. In a few moments I am mounting the stone steps by the big rockery and walking along the path towards my front door. Whenever I come back, even after only a few hours absence, I want to touch each flower and each tree I pass; to tell them something of my joy because I am here with them again. But I think they know it. There is no lamplight to welcome me now, but there is the moon to give a lovelier glow. There are no human voices to call me, but there is the river's music and the night wind in the trees and all the faint stirrings of woodsy things. Human voices quarrel and say ugly words; human light is not always kind. When I have come back to people I have expected much and often been disappointed or, not knowing what to expect, I have dreaded the return. But here everything is rooted in beauty and in peace and there is surety everywhere. This is home.

August Fashions

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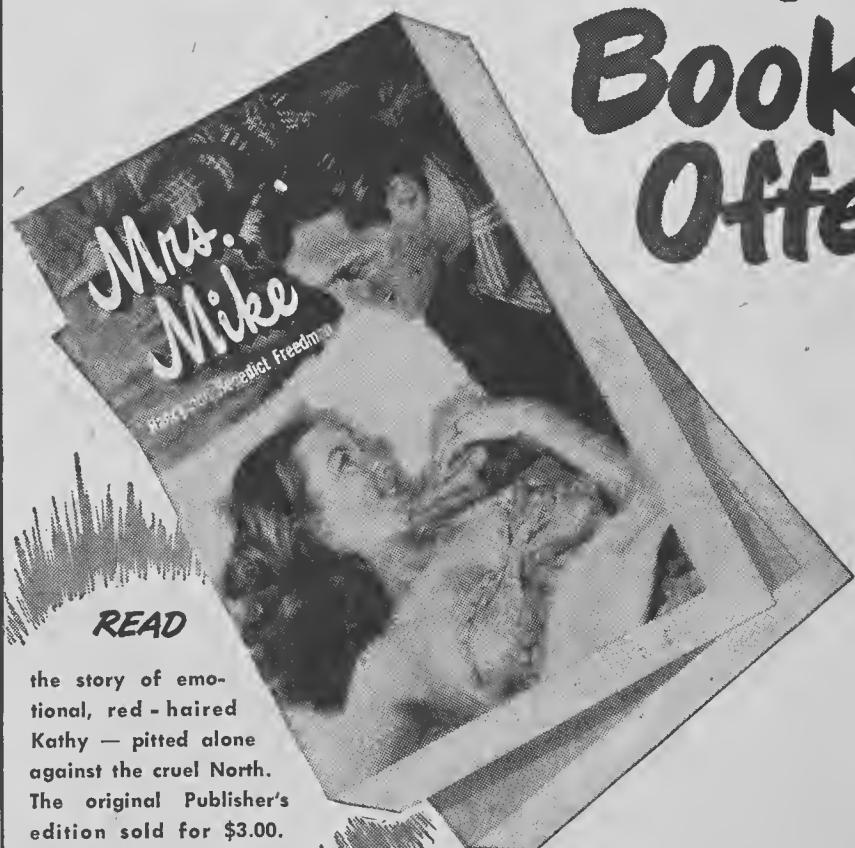
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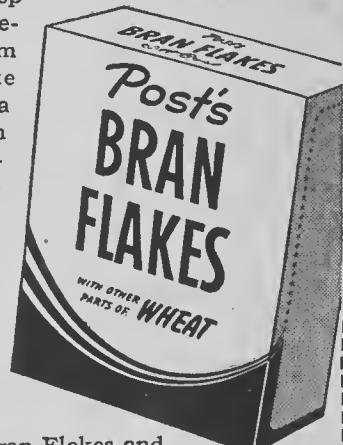


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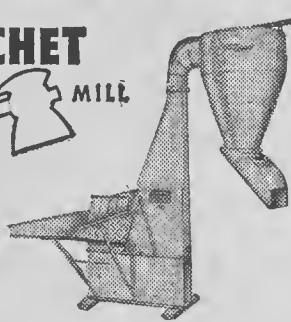
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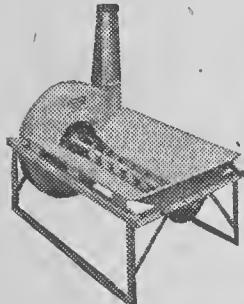
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PEACE TOWER*Continued from page 5*

their early 50's. This means that the Tories have somebody who has vote appeal.

Now in the meantime, Drew and Duplessis have worked very closely together against the common enemy, Ottawa. The Drew-Duplessis axis is a very real thing, and today, a very potent thing. If Duplessis wants to, he can deliver 30 seats next election to any Conservative party, or for that matter, any other party. In other words Drew and Duplessis working together could win as many as 80 seats in Ontario and Quebec alone. Some would "raise the ante" and make it 100. But in any event, the Double D Axis is the hottest thing in political Canada today.

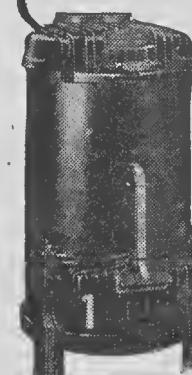
If, for argument's sake, Diefenbaker

won the Conservative nomination, Duplessis might be induced to toss his support to Diefenbaker just as he surely would for Drew. Then it would be Lake Centre's John George who would lead Quebec and Ontario, 100 strong up onto Parliament Hill.

Thus, that landslide by the Duplessis crowd has started a series of events that may change the Liberal premiership, turn Quebec from its historic "Rouge" beliefs, give the Conservatives a new lease of life, develop a Quebec-Ontario axis at Ottawa, and see the first non-Liberal administration on Parliament Hill for a long time. I guess the best word to describe it all is "avalanche."

But, but, let's not overlook a man called M. J. Coldwell, leader of the C.C.F. He may knock all this into a cocked hat, and be next prime minister himself.

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The Country Boy and Girl

The Little Grey Donkey
by MARY E. GRANNAN

ONCE there was a little donkey. He was the nicest little grey donkey that ever grazed in a clover field. He was friendly with the brown cow, and the white sheep and the green toad, and the sun and the sky. And he was happy.

One day when he was gamboling about in the clover, he saw a little boy by the line fence. This was the first little boy that the little grey donkey had ever seen, and so he kicked up his heels in gladness and went racing to the fence. The little boy's mother, who was standing near by cried out in alarm, "Billy, Billy, come here! That donkey will kick you."

"Oh no, Mum," said Billy. "He looks like a nice little donkey. He won't kick me."

But Billy's mother dragged him away. The little grey donkey's eyes filled with tears. He went to the brown cow and told her what happened. She mooed in comfort, and told the little grey donkey that people thought that about all donkeys.

"But I liked that little boy, Mrs. Cow, and he liked me," said the little grey donkey.

"I know, Ned," said the cow, "but you'll find out that I am right."

And Ned did. About a week later, the farmer who owned him, sold him to an old man who drove a fruit cart. Ned worked as hard as ever he could, hauling the bananas, and oranges, strawberries and apricots, here and there and around and about. He was a very good donkey indeed, until the day he heard his master say to another man, "Oh yes, he is a very strong donkey, but he kicks all the time, one day he kicked over the cart and upset all my bananas."

Ned couldn't believe his ears. This wasn't true. He cocked his ear to listen further, and he heard the other man saying, "Oh well, that's the way with donkeys. They're all kickers."

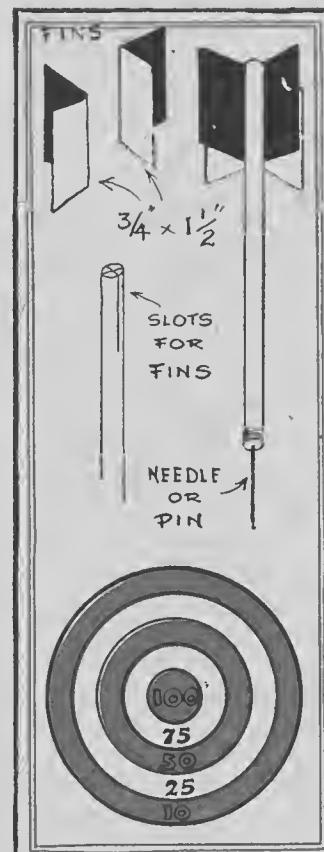
"Is that what you think of me?" said Ned to himself. "Well, if that's the way you think I am, that's the way I'll be." And Ned straightway kicked over the cart and all of the fruit. And he did it every day from then on, until the old fruit dealer sold him to a junk man.

The junk man who hauled tin cans and old rags, was very good to him, and Ned liked him. But one day, when the old man went to a junk dealer at the wharf, he said to the junk dealer, "What do you think of my new donkey?"

"Very fine fellow," said the junk dealer. "But does he kick?"

Ned's new master laughed. "Oh yes, all the time he kicks. But then you know how donkeys are."

And with that, Ned did kick over the junk cart, and upset every tin can, bottle and bundle of rags in the cart. And he did it every day until the old junk man put an advertisement in the paper that Ned was for sale. But no one came to buy him, and so the old man tethered him in his junk yard and left him to graze in



he has hit. No points are counted for darts touching a line. All players stand behind the one who is shooting to avoid being hit by a dart, and of course, no player throws a dart at any living thing.

"**GREEN Corn Moon**" the Indians called this month and in August we still look forward to delicious, green corn on the cob. Perhaps you are thinking that holidays are too quickly slipping away, yet there is time for some amusement and hobby of your own even though you share in the work of this busy farm season.

An outdoor game for you to make and play is darts. Such a game might not be welcome in the house for your aim is not accurate enough to avoid hitting mother's walls and furniture and when the weather is fine who wants to be indoors? The darts (you should make at least three) are made from candy sticks or large, used match sticks. Carefully push a needle, eye first into one end (pins could be used if you first flatten the head). On the other end cut two slots three-quarters of an inch long as shown in the diagram. Now cut two pieces of heavy paper one and one-half by three-quarters of an inch. These are the fins which you must fold and place in the slots you have cut. The target can be made by tracing on cardboard around the top of a pail for the outside circle. Paint and mark the target as shown in the diagram.

Hold the stick between the index finger and thumb when you are throwing the dart. The players stand eight feet from the target and each player throws three darts and receives the points

Ann Sankey

3. Add diagonally either way.
4. Add the four corners.
5. Add the four inside numbers.
6. Add any group of four numbers at each corner.

The result in each case will equal 34.—A. T.

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HERE is the story of "The Constant Tin Soldier," which is not so well known among boys and girls as some of the other stories in your book.

A little boy was given a box of tin soldiers for his birthday—25 soldiers all alike except one which had only one leg (look at the picture). You see the soldiers had been made from a tin spoon and there was not quite enough tin left to make the last soldier. But that did not mean he was not as brave and faithful as the other soldiers. The boy also had a toy castle in front of which a pretty dancer stood gracefully on one toe. Our tin soldier thought she would make a lovely wife for him, but always he kept his eyes straight ahead and never moved.

At night when the little boy was fast asleep the toys began to play. A jack-in-the-box became very jealous of the tin soldier because he wanted the dancer for himself. One day the little boy placed the tin soldier on the window ledge and the wind blew him down into the street, but the tin soldier did not cry out for that would be unlike a soldier. Two boys picked up the tin soldier and placed him in a paper boat to sail down the gutter. A big rat chased the boat but the tin soldier stood firm and showed no fear. The stream ran faster and faster and the tin soldier heard a roar of water which would make anyone fear but the tin soldier thought only of the dancing lady. The boat spun around, then turned over and sank. The tin soldier felt himself going down and down and all was darkness. He lay in a cramped position for some time, he felt himself being turned and twisted and stood on his head. Then came a flash of light and a boy's voice, "Why, there's my tin soldier!" The tin soldier had been swallowed by a fish and this fish was caught and brought to the little boy's home. You can imagine how happy the tin soldier was to see the pretty little dancer.—A. T.



Picture of the Constant Tin Soldier to Color.

A Magic Square

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THE Country GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME
Serving the Farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

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"Government For The People"

Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy has become out of date in Canada. "Government for the people" has become "Government for the people with the most powerful organization behind them." This at least may well be the conclusion of Canadians when they review the events of the year which relate to the operation of our great railway systems.

In March of this year the Transport Board, in a judgment the reasoning of which is open to serious criticism, allowed a railway freight rate which, it is estimated, will cost the people of this country annually eighty three million dollars more than the previous existing rate. The government, in the face of widespread protests, refused to interfere. The protest of the seven provincial premiers failed to move the Prime Minister and his cabinet. The judgment was allowed to stand in order to render doubly sure the operating profits of the railways on the basis of whose income the rate case was argued.

The next chapter in the story should not have been unexpected or caused surprise. Every major price increase has been followed with a demand for higher wages for labor. The running trades filed a demand for a wage increase of 35 cents an hour. Under the threat of a general railway tie-up, the union succeeded in forcing an eleventh hour settlement of 17 cents an hour increase, retroactive to March 1. The price of this settlement is seventy-five million dollars annually.

It is not our purpose to enter into any discussion of the merits of this settlement. As to whether an increase of 17 cents an hour was necessary to place railway labor on a level with prevailing wages in similar fields of activity is not a matter for argument at this time. The Guide has no quarrel with unionism or with its legitimate aims and objects. There is, however, a wider principle arising out of the manner in which this wage increase was accomplished than the mere rights of unionism. It is the welfare and interests of all the people of Canada.

Government by the people for the people does not include the right of any minority to bring economic disaster to all the people of Canada by tying up its railways; by stopping all deliveries of coal, of fuel, of food and of clothing to the people in our far flung areas, or by stopping farmers from delivering livestock and other perishable products to the available markets. All of this to the end that a wage increase may be brought about.

In the United States, under similar threat, the government took over the railways and was prepared to operate them until the dispute was settled. Such action is not peculiar to the United States government or to any one time or country. This action has usually proven successful in keeping these great public utilities operating and has not resulted in any prejudice either to employer or employee. Whatever may be the doubt of the jurisdiction of our Dominion government in other fields, there is no doubt of its jurisdiction over the railways. If, however, there is any lack of authority to do this thing that authority should be sought at the next session of parliament.

Should another similar dispute arise the government should be prepared, without hesitation, to use that authority at the proper time. It will have behind it the support of the majority of the people of Canada in doing so. The continued operation of our railway systems means too much to the economic life of Canada to be threatened by stoppage in the interests of any one group or by any one organization.

And now we have the third chapter in the story. At the time of writing the railways have filed an

application for a further twenty per cent increase over the present rate level. This, as Premier Garson points out, amounts to a 45 per cent increase over the level prevailing before March of this year. A 20 per cent increase on the new rate is a bigger jump than 21 per cent was on the old rate. It can be taken for granted that, as in the previous case, no objection will be raised by Ontario or Quebec. They enjoy the protection and regulating effect of water competition. They have nothing to fear. This further increase, if granted, will fall squarely on the other seven provinces. Today throughout Canada there is a growing sense of resentment, of frustration, in the fact of steadily rising cost of living. Western Canada, in particular, will not submit to this burden. Every means and every resource must be stretched to the utmost to resist it. It must not succeed.

The Farmer And The Cost Of Living

At any time these two rate increases totalling \$158 millions would be a serious blow to Canada's internal economy. At any time it would set in motion a sharp up-turn in the cost of living. In more settled times the shock might be absorbed without too much distress. In these times it is a staggering punch.

The most serious problem today, for Canadians as for most other people, is the cost of living. Governments all over the world profess to be exercised about it. Few of them have taken effective action. The cost of living in Canada is at an all-time high. Fixed income groups in Canadian cities are groaning under it. The election returns in the earlier summer discloses their restlessness. In such circumstances a grave responsibility rests on any government to fight with every weapon at its command against inflationary forces.

What sign has Ottawa shown of the acceptance of that responsibility? It has maintained controls of one kind or another on the most important things the farmer has to sell, materially lessening the farmers' income, and slightly easing the load on other sections of the community. When it comes to withstanding the demands of well-organized groups its perception becomes a bit blurred. The March rate increase is the biggest inflationary force let loose in Canada this year.

The unfortunate thing about the mounting urban bitterness over the rising cost of living is that the position of agriculture is grossly misunderstood. A howl of disapproval went up all over Canada last fall when milk prices were raised to meet increased production costs. Urban demands for the re-imposition of controls are always for controls of food, meat in particular. When bread prices rose to compensate for the loss of the government flour subsidy, the grain grower was suspected as the villain of the piece, when at the very moment he was accepting less than the world price for all domestically consumed wheat, and bearing unaided the burden of the British wheat agreement. The uproar over margarine is founded on the suspicion that dairy farmers are exploiting their monopoly to charge unwarranted prices for butter.

The improvement wrought in the farmers' position by war-time prices has been well publicized by city dailies. But the urban public has yet to discover that agricultural prices showed no marked advance till the war was nearly over. As late as 1942 farmers were receiving ten cents a bushel less than the long time average price of wheat, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Present day agricultural recovery is due more to unsparing war-time effort and a succession of favorable seasons than to high farm prices. The combination of good yields and prices that are fair in relation to higher production costs, has enabled most western farmers to maintain their position. Shortages of material prevented them from completing the conversion to mechanization which grain growing now demands. It prevented them from doing much that is lamentably overdue about rural housing. They accordingly devoted their surpluses to debt reduction. They did it so well that they encouraged a totally false notion about rural prosperity.

Farm prosperity today is relative. Compared

with the black decade before the war farmers are prosperous. Compared to the improved lot of those town dwellers who are protected by wage increases, farm prosperity is very moderate, but it has been enough to keep farmers quiet under the discriminatory policies which are undermining their present standing and future prospects. Any study of business cycles will show that high living costs are likely to remain for some time after farm prices break. When that time arrives farmers will appreciate the seriousness of the discrimination directed against them in the early post-war years.

The Prices Committee Report

Not much was expected of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Prices which sat in Ottawa from mid-February till late June. The opinion at the time it was convoked was that it was set up to give a semblance of activity and to prevent a discussion of prices in the House. It was given no power to recommend. Its report was tabled in the dying hours of the session and the government took elaborate pains to prevent any discussion in the House of its findings. There was nothing in its coming or its going to arouse public enthusiasm. The eastern press has sniffed very audibly at its report. It would have us believe that it is an impertinence for the public or its representatives to suggest that competitive business cannot be relied upon to maintain fair price levels under all circumstances.

The Guide does not defend the tactics of the government in setting up the committee or in dealing with its report. At the same time it does not believe that the report should receive the flippant treatment it has. On the whole it exonerates Canadian business. Nevertheless it records that prosecutions were set afoot as the result of evidence taken and that certain witnesses admitted that their pricing policy was affected by the existence of an investigating committee, if only for the period the committee was alive. The public would like to know more about the follow-up. It will be satisfied with nothing less than the fullest support for those responsible in bringing punishment on men who have taken advantage of consumers in these times. The work of the committee is only a first step.

The Wheat Agreement Again

When the U.S. Congress adjourned in June without ratifying the world wheat agreement, it was generally assumed that the deal was dead and buried. A new angle has developed however. President Truman's fighting speech at the Democratic convention summons Congress back to complete tasks which were shelved, but which, in his opinion, require action. One of these is the ratification of the wheat agreement. All of the twelve tasks which the president has put on the agenda are extremely distasteful to his Republican opponents. They involve issues on which the legislators do not wish to be committed on the eve of an election. The Republican Congress has been put on the spot. It must do the bidding of a Democratic president or explain its refusal to the electors.

What action Congress will take it is beyond our ability to say. There are many opponents of the pact in Washington who are prepared to put up a fight. It must be remembered that one of the inducements which led the importing countries to sign was the \$2.00 per bushel limit on this year's crop. The trade now anticipates that the Americans can get \$2.25 in an unrestricted market.

Even if Congress overcomes its past indifference there is no assurance that the agreement can be put into force. Great Britain formally contracted out of it when the American house dropped the measure, and her approval will have to be recovered. So far as the record shows Canada is still willing to carry out her undertaking. The various European nations have never displayed any enthusiasm for the agreement. They have merely been willing to follow the lead of Great Britain and the U.S. Canada has given full support to the idea on the part of the government, parliament, and of the wheat producers. This country can do no more to bring it about.